

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES



TOWN OF ORANGE
MASSACHUSETTS
FOR THE YEAR OF 2024

Bruce C. Mitchell
“Mr. Mahar”
April 27, 1947 – September 20, 2024



Born in Gardner, MA. to Chester and Ester Mitchell, Bruce was destined for a life of education. After graduating from Athol High School in 1965, he attended Fitchburg State College where he attained 3 Master's Degrees!

With a love for education, and his wife Kathleen at his side, “Mitch” embarked on his life’s calling – to serve as a science teacher and science coordinator at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School for 53 years.

Bruce’s dedication to his students went beyond the classroom, as he enthusiastically coached baseball, volleyball, and middle school football. He also served as an Athletic Site Director. It was on the field where he would earn the nickname “Coach Beef”.

“In some small way, I hope I have encouraged some students to become successful adults”
We are confident that he achieved this goal!

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Orange Town Offices

DEPARTMENT	ADDRESS	PHONE	Fax
Accountant	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 ext. 111	978-544-1120
Airport	80 Airport Road	978-544-8189	978-544-1126
Ambulance - Emergency Only		911	
Assessors	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 ext. 108	978-544-1120
Board of Health	62 Cheney Street	978-544-1107	978-544-1138
Building Department	62 Cheney Street	978-544-1105	978-544-1138
Cemetery Department	585 South Main Street	978-544-3681	
Collector	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 ext. 104	978-544-1134
Council on Aging/Senior Center	62 Cheney Street	978-544-3481	
Fire Department - Headquarters	18 Water Street	978-544-3145	978-544-6476
Fire Department - To Report a Fire		911	
Highway Department	526 East River Street	978-544-1111	978-544-1141
Library - Moore- Leland	172 Athol Road	978-575-0444	
Library- Wheeler Memorial	49 East Main Street	978-544-2495	
Police Department - Emergency Only	400 East River Street	911	
Police Department - General Business	400 East River Street	978-544-2129	978-544-3070
School Dept. - Fisher Hill School	59 Dexter Park	978-544-0018	978-334-2418
School Dept. - Superintendent	507 South Main Street	978-544-2920	978-544-8383
Selectmen	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 ext. 106	978-544-1120
Town Administrator	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 x 103	978-544-1120
Town Clerk	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 x 101	978-544-1134
Transfer Station /Recycling/ Landfill	53 Jones Street	978-544-1118	978-544-1120
Treasurer	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 x 105	978-544-1120
Wastewater Treatment Facility	295 West Main Street	978-544-1114	978-544-1120
Water Department	16 West Myrtle Street	978-544-1115	978-544-122
Water & Sewer Billing	6 Prospect Street	978-544-1100 x 102	978-544-1120

Town of Orange
ELECTED OFFICIALS

BOARD OF HEALTH	TERM END
JANE M PEIRCE	3/1/2027
PATRICIA DORIS PIERSON	3/1/2025
JOSEFA SCHERER	3/1/2026

BOARD OF SELECTMAN	TERM END
JULIE N DAVIS	3/1/2027
PATRICIA ANNE LUSSIER	3/1/2025
JANE M PEIRCE	3/1/2026
ANDREW JERRARD SMITH	3/1/2027
THOMAS J SMITH	3/1/2026

CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	TERM END
STEVEPHEN P. JOHNSON	3/1/2026
MICHELLE LEE LEBLANC	3/1/2027

CONSTABLE	TERM END
RANDY DAVID PLANTE	3/1/2025
TIM J SAKACH	3/1/2025

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE	TERM END
MALORY L ELLIS	3/1/2025
FRANK E HAINS	3/1/2026
YARELYN RAMOS MARTINEZ	3/1/2025
JESSICA RESKE	3/1/2026
JOSEFA SCHERER	3/1/2027

HOUSING AUTHORITY	TERM END
DAVID R BLAKE	3/1/2026
RICE BARRETT FLANDERS	
TRACY SHARON GAUDET	3/1/2027
OLINTO JOSEPH PAOLETTI	3/1/2025

LIBRARY TRUSTEE	TERM END
AMY DOWDY BOREZO	3/1/2025
CANDACE LEE CROSS	3/1/2025
PRISCILLA RHODA GAIGNARD	3/1/2027
JESSICA MARIE MORRIS	3/1/2025
CHRISTINE A MULLEN	3/1/2027
JOANNE E WOODCOCK	3/1/2026

MODERATOR		TERM END
STEVEN M GARRITY		3/1/2025
REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE		TERM END
CRYSTAL A CLARKE		3/1/2025
PETER M CROSS		3/1/2025
SHARON LYNN GILMORE		3/1/2025
KATIE BETH HUNKLER		3/1/2026
SHANNON M JOHNSON		3/1/2027
PATRICIA A SMITH		3/1/2027
TOWN CLERK		TERM END
NANCY M BLACKMER		3/1/2026
TRUSTEE OF SOLDIERS' MEMORIALS		TERM END
DOUGLAS RICHARD JILLSON		3/1/2027
MICHELLE LEE LEBLANC		3/1/2025
DOUGLAS S MCINTOSH		3/1/2025
WATER COMMISSIONERS		TERM END
MERCEDES LEE CLINGERMAN		3/1/2025
MICHAEL F HUME		3/1/2027
LEON F LEFEBVRE		3/1/2026

**Town of Orange
APPOINTED OFFICIALS**

OFFICE/BOARD/COMMITT/COMMISSION		TERM END
ACCOUNTANT		
AMBER DUPELL		3/1/2025
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION		
RACHEL GONZALEZ		3/1/2026
CHRISTIAN HAINS		3/1/2025
JOHN N. MOORE		3/1/2027
RACHEL SCHERER		3/1/2026
BRAD TEETER		3/1/2027
AIRPORT COMMISSION		
CASEY BASHAW		3/1/2025
CAIN BLACKBIRD		3/1/2026
STEVE CANNING		3/1/2025
JULIE COLE		3/1/2027

ASSISTANT COLLECTOR

JESSICA OMUNDSEN

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

RANDI BJORLIN	3/1/2027
CYNTHIA BROWN	3/1/2026
LISA J. ELLIOT	3/1/2025

BOARD OF HEALTH AGENT

ASHLEY GOUGH 3/1/2026

BOARD OF REGISTRARS

DRREN ALSTON	3/1/2025
PAMELA ROGERS	3/1/2027
JOANNE E. WOODCOCK	3/1/2026

BUILDING INSPECTOR

BRIAN MITCHELL

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NANCY M BLACKMER

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

RYAN W. MAILLOUX	3/1/2027
JANE M PEIRCE	3/1/2025
HARRY VEILLEUX	3/1/2026

CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

MATTHEW FRANCIS FORTIER 3/1/2026

COLLECTOR

SHANA SMITH 3/1/2027

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MARTA NOVER	3/1/2026
MATTHEW TETO	3/1/2027
SARAH WELLS	3/1/2025

COUNCIL ON AGING

ROSEANNE AMODEO	3/1/2027
JERILYNN B. DEYO	3/1/2026
KERRY GRIMES	3/1/2026

NANCY MAGILL	3/1/2025
HENRY OERTEL	3/1/2025
NANCY SAWYER	3/1/2026
JOANN WHEELER	3/1/2027

CULTURAL COUNCIL

SALLY HOWE	3/27/2030
KIM STEWART	10/2/2030
SARAH VANDERLAAN	9/6/2029
DAYNA VEECH	11/29/2029
NANCY WASHBURN	2/28/2030
DIANA WHEELER	2/28/2030

DISABILITY COMMISSION

MICHAEL BATUTIS	3/1/2024
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRIAL CORP.

KARL BITTENDENDER	7/1/2025
MARIA M. BULL	7/1/2027
KRISTINA DORN	7/1/2026
LIZA HURLBURT-MELO	7/1/2027
THOMAS SEXTON	7/1/2026
CHRISTOPHER J. WOODCOCK	7/1/2027
MARK WRIGHT	7/1/2025

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR

JAMES YOUNG	3/1/2025
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ENERGY COMMITTEE

RICE BARRETT FLANDERS	3/1/2025
PAMELA A. HARTY	3/1/2027
DEBORAH KENT	3/1/2025
PAT LARSON	3/1/2026
HENRY OERTEL	3/1/2027

FINANCE COMMITTEE

TREANA COSTELLO-SCHUMM	6/30/2025
RICHARD KEITH LARIVIERE	6/30/2026
KATHY REINIG	6/30/2027
SANDRA FAWN WEINSTEIN	6/30/2026
DAVID WELENC	6/30/2027

FIRE CHIEF

JAMES YOUNG

3/1/2025

FR. COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

PRISCILLA CURTIS

3/1/2025

FRCOG EMERGENCY PLANNING COMM.

JAMES YOUNG

7/01/2025

FRCOG PLANNING BOARD

MERCEDES LEE CLINGERMAN

6/30/2025

JANE M. PEIRCE

6/30/2025

FRCOG REPRESENTATIVE

MATTHEW FRANCIS FORTIER

7/1/2024

JANE M. PERICE

6/30/2022

ANDREW JERRARD SMITH

7/1/2024

FRTA

PATRICIA ANNE LUSSIER

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PAMELA A. ODDY

3/1/2025

PAMELA A. RAND

3/1/2026

TIM J. SAKACH

3/1/2027

HARRY VEILLEUX

3/1/2025

INSPECTOR OF ANIMALS

ASHELY GOUGH

4/30/2024

INSPECTOR OF WIRES

STEVE CANNING

3/1/2025

WARREN JENKS

3/1/2025

MOBILE RENT CONTROL BOARD

JULIE N. DAVIS

3/1/2025

JANE M. PEIRCE

3/1/2027

ANDREW JERRARD SMITH

3/1/2026

NORTH QUABBIN VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

BRUCE ALLEN ST. JOHN

3/1/2027

OPEN SPACE

HEATHER HEYES

ALEC MACLEOD

PATRICIA A. SMITH

NOAH STONE

PLANNING BOARD

CASEY BASHAW	3/1/2029
MERCEDES LEE CLINGERMAN	3/1/2028
KELLI GERVAIS	3/1/2027
FRED HEYES	3/1/2027
JOHN MCHALE	3/1/2028
THOMAN SEXTON	3/1/2026

PLUMBING INSPECTOR

CASEY BASHAW	3/1/2025
MICHAEL WOODARD	3/1/2025

POLICE CHIEF

JAMES SULLIVAN

REGIONAL VOCATIONAL AND TECH. SCHOOL

TIMOTHY CURRIER	6/30/2026
AMBER ROBIDOUX	6/30/2025

SANITATION SUPERINTENDENT

LARRY DELANEY 6/26/2026

SEALER OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

STEPHERN HIRON	3/1/2025
CHRISTOPHER HODGSON	3/1/2024

SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAY, CEMETERY, PARKS

LARRY DELANEY 3/1/2026

SUPERINTENDENT OF WATER

KEN WYSK 3/1/2022

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

MATTHEW FRANCIS FORTIER 08/20/2026

TOWN HALL RESTORATION

DENISE ANDREWS	3/1/2025
WILLIAM JOHNSON	3/1/2025
DEBORAH KENT	3/1/2026
MAUREEN RIENDEAU	3/1/2026

TREASURER

AMBER ROBIDOUX

3/1/2026

TREE WARDEN

LARRY DELANEY

3/1/2026

TRUSTEE OF SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL

PAUL LYMAN

3/1/2025

VETERAN'S AGENT

SARAH CUSTER

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

OSCAR RODRIGUEZ

7/1/2026

ZONNING BOARD OF APPEALS

CASEY BASHAW

3/1/2027

MERCEDES LEE CLINGERMAN

3/1/2026

KELLI GERVAIS

3/1/2027

GEORGE HUNT, JR

3/1/2027

JOHN MCHALE

3/1/2027

ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2024

ELECTIONS/TOWN MEETINGS:

The Annual Town Meeting was held on June 17, 2024. A special Town Meeting was held that same day, as well as on December 2, 2024. The Annual Town Election was held on February 5, 2024, the Presidential Primary was held on March 5, 2024, the State Primary on September 3, 2024, and the State/Presidential Election was held on November 5, 2024. All warrants, votes for Town Meetings, and Election results are included in this Annual Report.

ANNUAL TOWN CENSUS:

This year 4,338 census forms were mailed to Orange households. Responding to the Town Census is important to ensure our records are as up to date as possible. In addition to the allocation of grants and other information based on the Town's census numbers, proof of residency is obtained from the Town Census for purposes such as school enrollment, eligibility for public services such as housing and veterans' benefits, as well as eligibility for property tax exemptions.

VITAL STATISTICS:

The Town Clerk's Office maintains and preserves all vital records for the Town of Orange. You can obtain certified copies of birth, marriage, and death records either in person or by ordering them online at www.townoforange.org/274/Online-Payments. The cost for online vital records is \$11.00, \$10.00 for the certificate and \$1.00 for mailing. Vital records ordered online are fulfilled and mailed the next business day.

The Town Clerk's Office recorded the following vital records during 2024:

Births	60
Deaths	91
Marriages	43

BUSINESS CERTIFICATES:

Any business that is not a corporation, doing business in the Town of Orange, is required by law to file a "Doing Business As" (DBA) certificate with the Town Clerk's Office. The first step in the process is to go to the Town's website (www.townoforange.org) and select Online Permitting. This will take you to My Government Online – our online permitting program. You will need to create an account and log in. Business Certificates are in the Building Department section. Once issued, the certificate is renewable every four years. The filing fee is \$40.00.

FISHING & HUNTING LICENSES:

Fishing & Hunting Licenses are now available online at www.mass.gov/massfishhunt. The Town of Orange no longer issues these licenses. They can be purchased online or at some local sporting goods locations.

DOG LICENSING:

Online dog licensing is available at www.townoforange.org/274/Online-Payments, choose Town Clerk and then Dog License. There is a \$1.00 fee per dog for mailing licenses, and online orders are mailed the next business day. A late fee of \$50.00 is charged for dogs not licensed by March 31st. If updated rabies vaccination information has not been received by our office, you cannot license online.

Dogs must be licensed in January of each year. Dog licenses may also be obtained here at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours. The licensing fee is \$10.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$20.00 for intact dogs. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required. Licenses may also be obtained by mailing the fee and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Town Clerk's Office.

The Town Clerk's Office licensed 1,161 dogs in 2024.

OTHER:

Zoning By-law books and maps and Subdivision Rules & Regulations can be purchased at the Town Clerk's Office. This information is also available on the Town website.

The Town Clerk applied for and received a \$20,000.00 grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. This money was for election and security related upgrades for the Town Clerk's office and town hall.

The Town Clerk's Office is among the first offices our residents interface with when coming into the Town Hall. This office strives to provide professional and courteous services to all of our residents. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Assistant Town Clerk Rachael Fortier and the Election Workers assisting with the Town's elections and Town Meetings for their dedication and high standard of service and commitment to the residents of Orange.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy M. Blackmer, MMC/CMMC
Orange Town Clerk

TOWN OF ORANGE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting

January 18, 2024

FRANKLIN SS:

To the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Thursday, the eighteenth day of January 2024, so blessed under God, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The amount of available "Free Cash" for the General Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$1,180,820.00

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Town Clerk Nancy Blackmer, due to the absence of the Moderator. Christopher Woodcock was nominated, seconded and elected to serve for the meeting. He was sworn in as Temporary Moderator.

Chris recognized two long-time town employees who passed away, Elizabeth Peirce and Roger Mallett. He read a tribute to each and asked for a moment of silence.

Ann Reed and Denise Andrews presented a citation to Richard Sheridan on his retirement as a member of the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 1: ARMORY MAINTENANCE PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$384.00 to pay previous year's bill for Beulah Land Maintainers invoice number 17149; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 majority vote)

I move that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$384.00 to pay previous year's bill for Beulah Land Maintainers invoice number 17149.

Motion passed, 94 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 2: FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$27.66 from Fire Department Expense to pay Hamshaw Lumber Inc., the following: invoice number 5853 in the amount of \$17.98 and invoice number 229213 in the amount of \$9.68, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9 /10 majority vote)

I move that the Town vote to transfer \$27.66 from Fire Department Expense to pay Hamshaw Lumber Inc., the following: invoice number 5853 in the amount of \$17.98 and invoice number 229213 in the amount of \$9.68, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years.

Motion passed 91 in favor, 3 opposed.

ARTICLE 3: ADOPT PRUDENT INVESTOR RULE

To see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule," or take any other action relative thereto."

I move that the Town vote to accept the provisions of G.L. c.44, §54(b) to allow Town trust funds to be invested in accordance with G.L. c.203C, the so-called "Prudent Investment Rule.

Motion passed, 92 in favor, 9 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 4: ESTABLISH OPEB TRUST (MGL CH. 32B, S.20)

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the *Massachusetts General Laws*, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund; to authorize the Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund; to designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust; to authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the *Massachusetts General Laws*, or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund; to authorize the Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund; to designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust; to authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion passed, 86 in favor, 8 opposed, 6 abstained.

ARTICLE 5: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO OPEB

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust, or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$25,000 to the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust.

Motion passed, 95 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 6: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO OPIOID STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,820.18 to the OPIOID Stabilization account; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$50,820.18 to the OPIOID Stabilization account.

Motion passed, 95 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT REVOLVING FUND ACCOUNT TO AIRPORT AIRSPACE STUDY PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$3000.00 from the Airport's Revolving Fund account to pay the Town's local share portion of a \$50,000.00 federal and state grant for the Airport Airspace Study Project; or take any action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$3000.00 from the Airport's Revolving Fund account to pay the Town's local share portion of a \$50,000.00 federal and state grant for the Airport Airspace Study Project.

Motion passed, 93 in favor, 6 opposed, 4 abstained.

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO TAX TITLE COSTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash the sum of \$30,000 to the Collector-Recap Sheet Tax Title Costs, or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash the sum of \$30,000 to the Collector-Recap Sheet Tax Title.

Motion passed, 87 in favor, 9 opposed, 9 abstained.

ARTICLE 9: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- SEIU, LOCAL 888 (CLERICAL UNIT)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash \$42,361.17, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and further approve future increases (\$10,410.32 FY25 3% COLA and \$10,722.63 FY 26 3% COLA) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the Clerical unit employees (represented by the SEIU, Local 888 (Clerical Unit) in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws, or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash \$42,361.17, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, and further approve future increases (\$10,410.32 FY25 3% COLA and \$10,722.63 FY 26 3% COLA) under the collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of

Selectmen) and the Clerical unit employees (represented by the SEIU, Local 888 (Clerical Unit) in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion passed, 84 in favor, 15 opposed, 6 abstained.

ARTICLE 10: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO COLLECTOR CLERK'S WAGES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$19,590.40 to Collector Clerk's Wages; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$19,590.40 to Collector Clerk's Wages.

Motion passed, 76 in favor, 14 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 11: RESCIND REVALUATION FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to rescind funding authorization from the prior Annual Town Meeting held on June 20, 2023 - Article 33 Revaluation; rescind \$55,667.00, or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to rescind funding authorization from the prior Annual Town Meeting held on June 20, 2023 - Article 33 Revaluation; rescind \$55,667.00.

Motion passed, 89 in favor, 8 opposed, 4 abstained.

ARTICLE 12: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO ASSESSORS EXPENSE

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$55,667.00 to Assessors Expenses - Other Purchased Services; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$55,667.00 to Assessors Expenses - Other Purchased Services.

Motion passed, 81 in favor, 19 opposed, 6 abstained.

ARTICLE 13: INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$45,000.00 to fund a temporary inspector of buildings position; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from free cash the sum of \$45,000.00 to fund a temporary inspector of buildings position.

Motion passed, 74 in favor, 25 opposed, 5 abstained.

ARTICLE 14: ANIMALS ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will vote to approve and adopt the following bylaw:

175-11. Animals on Streets and Sidewalks

No person shall permit or suffer any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl of any kind or description belonging to him or her, or under his or her care to go at large in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place in the town, or upon the private property of another without their expressed permission; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to approve and adopt the following bylaw:

175-11. Animals on Streets and Sidewalks

No person shall permit or suffer any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl of any kind or description belonging to him or her, or under his or her care to go at large in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place in the town, or upon the private property of another without their expressed permission; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange.

Motion to postpone action – motion passed, 91% in favor, 8% opposed, 1% abstained, 107 votes cast.

ARTICLE 15: NONCRIMINAL DISPOSITION; ENFORCEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Noncriminal disposition; enforcement bylaw as follows:

Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

1.2. Noncriminal disposition; enforcement

Chapter 175, Article VII of the bylaws “pertaining to any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl at large or upon any public place in town” Enforcing Agent: Police Department and/or Animal Control Officer Penalty: First and subsequent offense \$50; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to amend the Noncriminal disposition; enforcement bylaw as follows:

Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

1.2. Noncriminal disposition; enforcement

Chapter 175, Article VII of the bylaws “pertaining to any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl at large or upon any public place in town” Enforcing Agent: Police Department and/or Animal Control Officer Penalty: First and subsequent offense \$50; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange.

Motion to postpone action – passed, 106 in favor, 2 opposed.

ARTICLE 16: ATHOL ORANGE GREENWAY

To see if the Town will vote to (a) transfer from Community Development Stabilization, \$100,000 and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to spend said sum for the purpose of being the Town’s matching share for hiring a consultant for project development and design for a shared-use path from Orange Riverfront Park to the intersection of Daniel Shays Highway, including, without limitation all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that no funds shall be expended until the Town of Orange has received a grant commitment or allocation for a portion of such costs of the consultant under so-called MassTrails Grant and/or under any federal and/or other state program for the foregoing project, and (b) authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or its designee to apply for and accept on behalf of the Town funds granted under the MassTrails Grant and/or any other funds, gifts, grants, under any federal and/or other state program in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the said project on behalf of the Town of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote)

I move that the Town will vote to (a) transfer from Community Development Stabilization, \$100,000 and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to spend said sum for the purpose of being the Town’s matching share for hiring a consultant for project development and design for a shared-use path from Orange Riverfront Park to the intersection of Daniel Shays Highway, including, without limitation all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that no funds shall be expended until the Town of Orange has received a grant commitment or allocation for a portion of such costs of the consultant under so-called MassTrails Grant and/or under any federal and/or other

state program for the foregoing project, and (b) authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or its designee to apply for and accept on behalf of the Town funds granted under the MassTrails Grant and/or any other funds, gifts, grants, under any federal and/or other state program in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the said project on behalf of the Town of Orange.

Motion passed by required 2/3, 76 in favor, 29 opposed, two abstained.

ARTICLE 17: CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND TRANSFER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer from the capital stabilization the sum of \$30,000 for the following Capital Project; or to take any action relative thereto,

Transfer Station Trash Compactor	\$30,000.00
----------------------------------	-------------

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote)

I move that the Town vote to appropriate and transfer from the capital stabilization the sum of \$30,000 for the Transfer Station Trash Compactor.

Motion passed by required 2/3, 92 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 18: EDIC PLAN ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will vote to update the 2020 Economic Development Plan accepted by Town Meeting, Article 17, on September 14, 2020 by amending the section on page 7 "Boundaries of the Area" by adding the words "and/or commercial" after the word "industrial" in the sentences that currently read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial." The new sentences will read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial and/or commercial."; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town vote to update the 2020 Economic Development Plan accepted by Town Meeting, Article 17, on September 14, 2020 by amending the section on page 7 "Boundaries of the Area" by adding the words "and/or commercial" after the word "industrial" in the sentences that currently read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial." The new sentences will read, "The EDIC's boundaries are the boundaries of the municipality (Map of the Town of Orange, Appendix A). Because of strict legal requirements, the EDIC is only authorized to plan for economic development projects in areas currently zoned industrial and/or commercial.

Motion passed, 88 in favor, 10 opposed, 4 abstained.

ARTICLE 19: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash, the sum of \$85,000 to fund the difference needed to the Insurance General Liability budget line from \$187,000, to \$272,000, to be able to pay insurance premium installments for the remainder of the Fiscal year (FY24).

I move that the Town vote to transfer and appropriate from free cash, the sum of \$85,000 to fund the difference needed to the Insurance General Liability budget line from \$187,000, to \$272,000, to be able to pay insurance premium installments for the remainder of the Fiscal year (FY24).

Motion passed, 88 in favor, 7 opposed, 1 abstained.

Motion to dissolve the meeting at 8:26, passed.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas J. Smith
Andrew J. Smith
Patricia J. Lussier
Jane M. Pierce
Richard P. Sheridan
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

January 4, 2024

**WARRANT FOR
ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

FRANKLIN, SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Elections to meet at the Cheney Street Town Offices at 62 Cheney Street in said, Orange, Massachusetts on Monday, February 5, 2024 from 10:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Annual Town Election for the following officers: 2 members of the Selectman for 3 years, Moderator for 1 year, Board of Health for 3 years, 1 member of the Elementary School Committee for 3 years, 2 members of the Elementary School Committee for 2 years, 1 member of the Elementary School Committee for 1 year, 2 members of the Regional School Committee for 3 years, 2 Library Trustees for 3 years, 1 Library Trustee for 1 year, Water Commissioner for 3 years, Water Commissioner for 2 years, Cemetery Commissioner for 3 years, Cemetery Commissioner for 2

years, Trustee of Soldiers' Memorials – Veteran – 3 years, Trustee of Soldiers' Memorials – Non-veteran – 3 years, Housing Authority for 4 years.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Post Office in Orange and Library in North Orange, seven days at least before the time of holding such election.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Jane Peirce
Thomas Smith
Patricia Lussier
Andrew Smith
Richard Sheridan

Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:
Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

January 4, 2024

Total Registered Voters	3034	3113	6147
Total Voted	252	227	479
	Prec. 1	Prec. 2	Total
Selectman 3 years			
Andrew Jerrard Smith	153	151	304
Julile N. Davis	200	184	384
Sandra Fawn Weinstein	92	77	169
Write-ins	0	1	1
Blanks	59	41	100
Moderator			
Steven M. Garrity	59	62	121
Write-in	12	1	13
Blanks	181	164	345

8%

Board of Health			
Jane M. Peirce	206	184	390
Write-in	3	0	3
Blanks	43	43	86
Elem. School Comm. 3 yr.			
Josefa Divora Bashein Scherer	198	178	376
Write-in	7	3	10
Blanks	47	46	93
Elem. School Comm. 2 yrs.			
Crystal Clarke	105	86	191
Frank E. Hains	199	167	366
Jessica Reske	117	125	242
Write-in	2	4	6
Blanks	81	72	153
Elem School Comm. 1 Years			
Yarelyn Ramos Martinez	209	170	379
Write-in	2	3	5
Blanks	41	54	95
Regional School Comm. 3 Years			
Shannon M. Johnson	207	173	380
Patricia A. Smith	209	168	377
Write-in	4	1	5
Blanks	84	112	196
Library Trustee 3 yrs			
Priscilla Rhoda Gaignard	205	178	383
Christine Mullen	79	57	136
Write-in		3	3
Blanks	217	222	439
Library Trustee 1 Years			
Jessica Marie Morris	201	173	374
Write-in	6	5	11
Blanks	45	49	94
Water Commissioner 3 years			
Michael F. Hume	221	190	411
Write-in	1	1	2
Blanks	30	36	66
Water Commissioner 2 years			

Leon Lefebvre	5	3	8
Write-in	12	16	28
Blanks	235	208	443
Cemetery Commissioner 3 yrs			
Michelle L. Leblanc	216	180	396
Write-in	1	0	1
Blanks	35	47	82
Cemetery Commissioner 2 yrs			
Stephen P. Johnson	222	187	409
Write-in	0	0	0
Blanks	30	40	70
Soldiers' Mem.-Veteran			
Doug Jillson		2	2
Write-in	11	9	20
Blanks	241	216	457
Soldiers' Mem.-Non-Veteran			
Sandra Fawn Weinstein	7	3	10
Write-in	5	9	14
Blanks	240	215	455
Housing Authority 4 years			
Write-in	5	7	12
Blanks	247	220	467

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

FRANKLIN,SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to meet at the Cheney Street Office Building, at 62 Cheney St. in said, Orange, Massachusetts on **TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF MARCH, 2024** from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the Presidential Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

Presidential Preference For this Commonwealth
State Committee Man Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester District
State Committee Woman Hampshire, Franklin, Worcester District
Town Committee Town of Orange

Hereof fail not and make return of this warrant with your doings thereon at the time and place of said voting.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Town Hall, Post Office in Orange and Library in North Orange, seven days at least before the time of holding such election.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 31st day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas Smith
Jane Peirce
Andrew Smith
Patricia Lussier
Richard Sheridan

Selectmen, Town of Orange
A true copy. ATTEST:
Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN,SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange February 1, 2024

February 1, 2024

Presidential Primary - March 5, 2024

21%			
Total Registered	3042	3118	6160
Voters	649	645	1294
Office/Name	Prec. 1 Total	Prec. 2 Total	Total
Democrat	265	291	556
Presidential Preference			
Dean Phillips	16	12	28
Joseph R. Biden	207	252	459
Marianne Williamson	9	10	19
No Preference	26	16	42
Write-In	6	0	6
Blank	1	1	2

State Committee Man			
James Nash	0	0	0
Write-In	14	25	39
Blank	251	266	517
State Committee Woman			
Samantha Hopper	0	0	0
Write-In	15	26	41
Blank	250	265	515
Town Committee			
Write-In	23	39	62
Blank	9210	10139	19349
Alex Schwanz	4	8	12
Ruth Fetzer	5	7	12
Tom Ziniti	6	7	13
Denise Andrews	4	8	12
Libertarian	20	16	36
Presidential Preference			
Jacob George Hornberger	5	2	7
Michael D. Rectenwald	1	1	2
Chase Russell Oliver	1	1	2
Michael Ter Maat	3	0	3
Lars Damian Mapstead	0	1	1
No Preference	8	4	12
Write-In	2	5	7
Blank	0	2	2
State Committee Man			
Write-In	4	3	7
Blank	16	13	29
State Committee Woman			
Write-In	5	2	7
Blank	15	14	29
Town Committee			
Write-In	2	0	2
Blank	198	160	358
	0	0	0
Republican	364	338	702

Presidential Preference			
Chris Christie	6	3	9
Ryan Binkley	0	1	1
Vivek Ramaswamy	0	1	1
Asa Hutchinson	0	0	0
Donald J. Trump	258	241	499
Ron DeSantis	2	0	2
Nikki Haley	90	83	173
No Preference	3	6	9
Write-In	4	1	5
Blank	1	2	3
State Committee Man			
Jay S. Fleitman	81	69	150
Christopher J. Ryan	224	202	426
Write-In	0	0	0
Blank	59	67	126
State Committee Woman			
Mary L. Stuart	42	48	90
Sue O'Sullivan	262	223	485
Write-In	1	1	2
Blank	59	66	125
Town Committee			
Group	174	157	331
Blank	190	181	371
Leslie C. Proctor	198	178	376
Raymond M. Younghans	224	191	415
Donald Wayne Proctor	191	175	366
Christopher J. Somers	197	175	372
Sarah M. Somers	204	181	385
George Edward Brooks	205	176	381
Write-In	6	7	13
Blank	3143	2973	6116

TOWN OF ORANGE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting

Monday June 17, 2024

FRANKLIN SS:

To the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Monday, the seventeenth day of June 2024, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The amount of available “Free Cash” for the General Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$1,180,082.00

The amount of “Retained Earnings” for the Water Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$310,362.00

The amount of “Retained Earnings” for the Sewer Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$727,430.00

A quorum being present, the Moderator opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Moderator asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Shirley Page Award was presented to the Pioneer Junior Women’s Club for all they have done over the years to support the Town. The Annual Town Report was dedicated to Elizabeth Peirce.

ARTICLE 1: SANITATION PREVIOUS YEAR’S BILL

To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$45.00 from the Sanitation Expenses to pay a previous year’s bill for Lyman Signs & Graphic Solutions; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$45.00 from the Sanitation Expenses to pay a previous year’s bill for Lyman Signs & Graphic Solutions.

Motion passed, 201 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 2: SPECTRUM BUSINESS PREVIOUS YEAR’S BILL

To see if the Town will vote the sum of \$494.01 from General Office Expense to pay a previous year’s bill for Spectrum; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move that the Town vote the sum of \$494.01 from General Office Expense to pay a previous year’s bill for Spectrum.

Motion passed, 203 in favor, 13 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 3: FIRE DEPARTMENT PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 from Fire Department Wages to Firefighting Protective Clothing account 001-224-5700-4000; or take any action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 from Fire Department Wages to Firefighting Protective Clothing account 001-224-5700-4000.

Motion passed, 199 in favor, 18 opposed, 5 abstained.

ARTICLE 4: FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING WAGES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$17,500.00 from Fire Department Wages to Fire Department Training Wage Account 001-224-5148-1000; or take any action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer and appropriate the sum of \$17,500.00 from Fire Department Wages to Fire Department Training Wage Account 001-224-5148-1000.

Motion passed, 202 in favor, 17 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 5: PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum \$30,000.00 from Fire Department Wages to establish a Fire Department EMT Paramedic Training Account for the purpose of training current employees to the Paramedic level of certification; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer and appropriate the sum \$30,000.00 from Fire Department Wages to establish a Fire Department EMT Paramedic Training Account for the purpose of training current employees to the Paramedic level of certification.

Motion passed, 198 in favor, 16 opposed, 9 abstained.

ARTICLE 6: FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from Fire Department Wages to establish a Fire Department Training Account for the purpose of providing professional development training for employees of the Department; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer and appropriate \$5,000 from Fire Department Wages to establish a Fire Department Training Account for the purpose of providing professional development training for employees of the Department.

Motion passed, 199 in favor, 23 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 7: WATER DEPARTMENT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$182,525 for the Drinking Water Asset Management Plan Project. (The Project was submitted to the Massachusetts Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Asset Management Planning Project List and Awarded the grant.) The total project cost of \$182,525 is comprised of a \$109,515 to be received as a grant which will be reimbursed to the Town throughout the Project by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Drinking Water SRF; a cash contribution from the Town of \$26,652, and further to see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department Retained Earnings account the sum of \$26,652 to the Drinking Water Asset Management Project account; and, the remainder of the project costs to be in-kind services (non-cash) provided by the Town valued at \$46,358.

And further to vote that the Town's Water Department Superintendent, Kenneth Wysk, is authorized to act on behalf of the Town to file for and accept funds in connection with the Grant and the Project, including entering into a financial assistance agreement with Clean Water Trust, on such terms and conditions as the Water Department Superintendent and the Clean Water Trust shall agree and to

submit any and all documents and certifications necessary or advisable; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$182,525 for the Drinking Water Asset Management Plan Project. (The Project was submitted to the Massachusetts Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Asset Management Planning Project List and Awarded the grant.) The total project cost of \$182,525 is comprised of a \$109,515 to be received as a grant which will be reimbursed to the Town throughout the Project by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Drinking Water SRF; a cash contribution from the Town of \$26,652, and further to see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Department Retained Earnings account the sum of \$26,652 to the Drinking Water Asset Management Project account; and, the remainder of the project costs to be in-kind services (non-cash) provided by the Town valued at \$46,358.

And further to vote that the Town's Water Department Superintendent, Kenneth Wysk, is authorized to act on behalf of the Town to file for and accept funds in connection with the Grant and the Project, including entering into a financial assistance agreement with Clean Water Trust, on such terms and conditions as the Water Department Superintendent and the Clean Water Trust shall agree and to submit any and all documents and certifications necessary or advisable.

Motion passed, 196 in favor, 13 opposed, 9 abstained.

ARTICLE 8: SEWER ASSET MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROJECT (CMOM YR 1)

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$286,371 for the FY2025 Sewer Asset Management Planning Project (CMOM Year 1) which was submitted to the Massachusetts Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Asset Management Planning Project List and Awarded. The total project cost of \$286,371 comprises a \$150,000 grant the Town will be reimbursed for throughout the Project by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The balance of the Project will be comprised of in-kind services (non-cash) provided by the Town valued at \$85,985 and a cash contribution from the Town valued at \$50,386, being paid through the sewer enterprise expenses.

And further to vote that the Town's WWTP Superintendent, Oscar Rodriguez, is authorized to act on behalf of the Town to file for and accept funds in connection with the Grant and the Project, including entering into a financial assistance agreement with Clean Water Trust, on such terms and conditions as the WWTP Superintendent and the Clean Water Trust shall agree and to submit any and all documents and certifications necessary or advisable; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$286,371 for the FY2025 Sewer Asset Management Planning Project (CMOM Year 1) which was submitted to the Massachusetts Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Asset Management Planning Project List and Awarded. The total project cost of \$286,371 comprises a \$150,000 grant the Town will be reimbursed for throughout the Project by MassDEP and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. The balance of the Project will be comprised of in-kind services (non-cash) provided by the Town valued at \$85,985 and a cash contribution from the Town valued at \$50,386, being paid through the sewer enterprise expenses.

And further to vote that the Town's WWTP Superintendent, Oscar Rodriguez, is authorized to act on behalf of the Town to file for and accept funds in connection with the Grant and the Project, including entering into a financial assistance agreement with Clean Water Trust, on such terms and conditions as the WWTP Superintendent and the Clean Water Trust shall agree and to submit any and all documents and certifications necessary or advisable.

Motion passed, 182 in favor, 31 opposed, 9 abstained.

ARTICLE 9: OPIOID STABILIZATION FUND

To see if the Town will vote to revoke the dedication of funds to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and transfer any dedicated funds, as well as all future opioid settlement funds, to the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund as per M.G.L. c. 44, section 53, clause 4; and, as authorized by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services' Director of Accounts; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

I move that the Town revoke the dedication of funds to the Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and transfer any dedicated funds, as well as all future opioid settlement funds, to the Opioid Settlement Special Revenue Fund as per M.G.L. c. 44, section 53, clause 4; and, as authorized by the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services' Director of Accounts.

Motion passed, 175 in favor, 31 opposed, 10 abstained.

ARTICLE 10: ACCEPTANCE OF THE ALTERATION, LAYOUT, AND CONFIRMATION OF NORTH MAIN STREET

To see if the Town will vote to accept the alterations, layout, and confirmation of North Main Street as a town public way, pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 82, Sections 21 through 24, for highway purposes, more particularly shown as "North Main Street (Public – Variable Width)" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or action in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

I move that the Town accept the article as printed.

Motion passed, 192 in favor, 14 opposed, 8 opposed.

I move that the Town vote to take Articles 11-38 – easements, and that they be "passed by consent"

Motion passed, 211 in favor, 13 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 11: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 534.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 549.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of sidewalk and driveway construction, slope grading, temporary fencing, temporary compost filter tubes, and retaining wall construction; and on a separate parcel a permanent easement, consisting of 174.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 634.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, retaining wall construction, stair removal and replacement, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes, all on the westerly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as The Orange Historical Society, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-1, TE-1, PUE-3, and TE-2" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$2,500.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 12: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 486.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; a temporary easement, consisting of 1,259.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, retaining wall construction, stair removal and replacement, tree removal, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes; and a temporary easement, consisting of 34.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, retaining wall construction, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes, all on the westerly side of North Main Street and the easterly side of High Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Iseum Sanctuary, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-4, TE-3, and TE-47" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$7,200.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 13: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 22.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a temporary easement, consisting of 177.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of access for sidewalk construction and slope grading; and a temporary easement, consisting of 641.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of access for sidewalk construction and slope grading, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Bombadillo LLC, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 16-T, TE-4, and TE-44" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$900.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 14: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 432.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a permanent easement, consisting of 247.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a concrete gravity wall; a permanent easement, consisting of 179.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a guardrail; and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,020.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, rebuilding steps, temporary compost filter tubes, and driveway construction, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Michael Theriault, Daniel Theriault, Diane Theriault Hanks, Donald Theriault, Jr., Bethany Theriault, and unknown heirs or devisees of Jeremy Theriault, all as heirs at law of Donald A. Theriault, Sr.; and Donald A. Theriault, Jr., Bethany Theriault, Keven Tindell, and unknown heirs of devisees of Jeremy Theriault, all as heirs at law of Colleen C. Theriault, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 1-T, W-1, GR-1, and TE-5" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$4,000.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

ARTICLE 15: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 493.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of driveway grading, slope grading, and walkway construction; and on a separate parcel a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 2.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 87.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; and a temporary easement, consisting of 389.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction; and on a separate parcel a permanent easement, consisting of 143.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; and a temporary easement, consisting of 854.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Victor G. MacDonald and Laurie J. MacDonald, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-6, 12-T, PUE-5, TE-39, PUE-8, and TE-15, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,900.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 16: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 402.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, on the westerly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Joshua R. Gleason, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-7, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$400.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 17: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 1,066.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of retaining wall demolition and construction, slope grading, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes; and on a separate parcel a temporary easement, consisting of 1,501.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of retaining wall and steps demolition and construction, slope grading, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes, both on the westerly side of North Main Street and the easterly side of High Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Day Lone-Wolf Carroll and Ann G. Forcier, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels TE-8 and TE-9, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$2,300.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 18: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 2,040.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of retaining wall and steps demolition and construction, slope grading, temporary fencing, and temporary compost filter tubes, on the westerly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Jimi-Lee Johnson and Ashley Marie Johnson, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-10, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,700.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 19: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 116.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of utility pole and guy wire; and a temporary easement, consisting of 895.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction, both on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Francisco Lopez, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-18 and TE-11" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$900.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 20: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 1.00 square foot of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 88.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 701.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Jet Investment, LLC, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 13-T, PUE-6, and TE-13" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$800.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 21: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 1.00 square foot of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 100.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 749.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and driveway construction, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Laurie MacDonald, for the reconstruction of

North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 14-T, PUE-7, and TE-14" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$800.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 22: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 8.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 643.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and walkway construction, both on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Shaker Realty Nominee Trust, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-9, and TE-16" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$500.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 23: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 4,461.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, driveway construction, and retaining wall demolition and construction, on the westerly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Richard LaRose and Rebecca LaRose, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-17, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$6,700.00, representing a one-half undivided interest, for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 24: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 4,461.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, driveway construction, and retaining wall demolition and construction, on the westerly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Andrew Bergmann, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-17, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$6,700.00, representing a one-half undivided interest, for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 25: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 1,555.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and retaining wall construction, on the westerly side of North Main Street and the easterly side of High Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Shawn Saulnier and Carole Noel, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-18, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,100.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 26: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 91.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 340.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wires; a temporary easement, consisting of 791.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction; and a temporary easement, consisting of 444.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Joshua J. Blanchard and Mackenzie E. Blanchard, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 9-T, PUE-10, TE-21 and TE-40" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,500.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 27: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 1.00 square foot of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 108.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires; and a temporary easement, consisting of 634.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction; and on a separate parcel a permanent easement, consisting of 80.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; and a temporary easement, consisting of 456.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Robert M. Jalbert and Gerald M. Marcanio, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 10-T, PUE-11, TE-22, PUE-12, and TE-23" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,400.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 28: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 389.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction, on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Jeremy M. Packard and Angel M. Havener, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-24, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$400.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 29: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKINGS AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 100.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 2.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; a permanent easement, consisting of 203.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; a permanent easement, consisting of 232.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a guardrail; a permanent easement, consisting of 63.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a temporary easement, consisting of 666.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction; and a temporary easement, consisting of 741.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, driveway construction, and temporary compost filter tubes, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as David A. Beckwith, Jr. and Amy Person, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 3-T, 11-T, PUE-13, GR-2, W-2, TE-25, and TE-26" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,900.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 30: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 353.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a permanent easement, consisting of 200.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; and a temporary easement, consisting of 356.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and temporary compost filter tubes, all on the easterly side of North Main Street and the westerly side of Wood Place, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Cynthia M. Tucker, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 4-T, W-3, and TE-27" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,400.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 31: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 117.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a permanent easement, consisting of 140.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; and a temporary easement, consisting of 445.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and temporary compost filter tubes, all on the easterly side of North Main Street and the westerly side of Wood Place, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Daniel Ashworth and Susanne Ashworth, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 5-T, W-4, and TE-28" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$900.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 32: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 1,433.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of site clearing, installation of a retaining wall, rip rap at culvert outlet, stone for pipe ends at drainage outlet, and vegetated swale; a permanent easement, consisting of 545.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of site clearing, installation of a retaining wall, rip rap at culvert outlet, stone for pipe ends at drainage outlet, and vegetated swale; a permanent easement, consisting of 1,069.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of site clearing, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, rip rap installation along new stream channel, vegetated swale, and plantings; a permanent easement, consisting of 679.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead wires, removal and rebuilding a stone wall, temporary stone wall bracing, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, temporary access ramp, site clearing, and plantings; a temporary easement, consisting of 288.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, site clearing, plantings, and a wetland replication area; a temporary easement, consisting of 1,793.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, site clearing, plantings, and a temporary access ramp; and a temporary easement, consisting of 294.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, site clearing, plantings, temporary stone wall bracing installation, and removal and rebuilding a stone wall, all on the easterly side of North Main Street and the northerly side of Winter Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Stacy M. Wilson and Robert J. Wilson, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 6-T, W-5, X-C-1, PUE-19, TWLR-1, TE-29, and TE-46" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$6,700.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 33: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 109.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall; a permanent easement, consisting of 91.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a retaining wall and removal of and rebuilding a stone wall; and a temporary easement, consisting of 2,169.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, removal of and rebuilding a stone wall, temporary stone wall

bracing installation, site clearing, and plantings, all on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Robert Ellin, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 7-T, W-6, and TE-30" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$2,500.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 34: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 949.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, walkway construction, and driveway construction, on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Anthony McCormack-Corda and Alyssa Sansossio, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-31, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$900.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 35: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 9.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a sidewalk; and a temporary easement, consisting of 1,074.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading, driveway construction, and step demolition and construction, both on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Andre De Paula and Katie Pimentel De Paula, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 15-T and TE-32" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 36: AUTHORIZE EASEMENT ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a temporary easement, consisting of 891.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and retaining wall and step demolition and construction, on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Bank of America, NA as Successor by merger to LaSalle Bank NA as Trustee for Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates WMALT Series 2006-1- Trust, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcel TE-33, on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$900.00 for the acquisition of said easement. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 37: AUTHORIZE FEE SIMPLE TAKING AND EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a fee simple parcel taking, consisting of 268.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of the Fall Hill Brook culvert headwall, site clearing, temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence, and plantings; a permanent easement, consisting of 296.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of utility guy wires; a permanent easement, consisting of 811.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of overhead utility wires and guy wire; a temporary easement, consisting of 297.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and temporary compost filter tubes; a temporary easement, consisting of 1,581.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence; a temporary easement, consisting of 143.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and temporary compost filter tubes and silt fence; and a temporary easement, consisting of 109.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of stone for pipe ends at culvert, all on the westerly side of North Main Street and the easterly side of Dexter Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owner now or formerly known as Peter A. Carter, Trustee of the Christopher T. Colo Irrevocable Trust, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels 8-T, PUE-14, PUE-15, TE-34, TE-41, TE-42 and TE-45" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$3,700.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 38: AUTHORIZE EASEMENTS ACQUISITION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general public way purposes, a permanent easement, consisting of 56.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of a utility guy wire; and a temporary easement, consisting of 1,233.00 square feet of land, more or less, for the purpose of slope grading and sidewalk construction access, both on the easterly side of North Main Street, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from owners now or formerly known as Michael J. Bezio and Marie E. Bezio, f/k/a Marie E. Mallett, for the reconstruction of North Main Street and the Fall Hill Brook culvert replacement, said land is more specifically shown as "Parcels PUE-17, and TE-35" on a set of plans, to be recorded, entitled "Layout Alteration and Easements Plan, North Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts," prepared by WSP USA Inc., dated May 3, 2024, and as amended, and further to appropriate a sum of \$1,000.00 for the acquisition of said easements. Said plans are also filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 39: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT AND GRANT A LICENSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with and grant a license to Day Lone-Wolf Carroll and Ann G. Forcier, as owners of property located at 48 High Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for private purposes in maintaining a retaining wall-stone and steps that are encroaching onto the public layout of North Main Street of between 3" to 12", more or less, for a cumulative length of 27', more or less; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 40: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT AND GRANT A LICENSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with and grant a license to Victor G. MacDonald and Laurie J. MacDonald, as owners of property

located at 66 North Main Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for private purposes in maintaining a retaining wall-stone that is encroaching onto the public layout of North Main Street of 4.5", more or less, for a length of 38', more or less; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 41: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT AND GRANT A LICENSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with and grant a license to Orange Historical Society, as the owner of property located at 41 North Main Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for private purposes in maintaining a retaining wall-stone and steps that are encroaching onto the public layout of North Main Street of between 3" to 18", more or less, for a cumulative length of 32', more or less; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 42: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT AND GRANT A LICENSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with and grant a license to Cheryl A. McIntosh, as the owner of property located at 9 Dexter Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for private purposes in maintaining a retaining wall-stone and steps that are encroaching onto the public layout of North Main Street of between 0.25' to 5.5', more or less, for a length of 12', more or less; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 43: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT AND GRANT A LICENSE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with and grant a license to Amelia R. Dynice, as the owner of property located at 15 Dexter Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for private purposes in maintaining a retaining wall-concrete that is encroaching onto the public layout of North Main Street of 4", more or less, for a length of 16', more or less; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 44: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with Daniel Ashworth and Susanne Ashworth, as the owners of property located at 6 Wood Place in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for public purposes in the construction, installation, repair, maintenance, replacement and/or upgrade of a stone retaining wall that is encroaching onto private property of between 6" to 18", more or less, for a length of 48', more or less, with the right to enter upon the premises as reasonably necessary to construct, install, repair, maintain, replace and/or upgrade the retaining wall and roadway support structures in the easement area; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

ARTICLE 45: AUTHORIZE TO ENTER INTO LICENSE AGREEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a License Agreement with Stacy M. Wilson and Robert J. Wilson, as the owners of property located at 15 Winter Street in the Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, for public purposes in the construction, installation, repair, maintenance, replacement and/or upgrade of a stone retaining wall that is encroaching onto private property of between 4" to 20", more or less, for a length of 140', more or less, with the right to enter upon the premises as reasonably necessary to construct, install, repair, maintain, replace and/or

upgrade the retaining wall and roadway support structures in the easement area; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

I move that the Town vote to take Articles 39-45 – license agreements, and that they be “passed by consent”

Motion 200 I favor, 5 opposed, 8 abstained.

Motion to dissolve the meeting at 7:55 p.m. passed.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 29th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas J. Smith
Andrew J. Smith
Patricia J. Lussier
Jane M. Pierce
Julie N. Davis
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

May 29, 2024

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
FY 2025
MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.**

FRANKLIN, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Monday, the Seventeenth day of June 2024, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The amount of available “Free Cash” for the General Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$1,180,082.00

The amount of “Retained Earnings” for the Water Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$310,362.00

The amount of "Retained Earnings" for the Sewer Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$727,430.00

The Annual Town Meeting was opened at , following the Special Town Meeting.

I move that the Town vote to take Articles 1 through 8 and that they be "passed by consent".

- Article 1: Town Report
- Article 2: Spending Limits
- Article 3: Compensating Balance Agreements
- Article 4: Authorize Borrowing
- Article 5 : Grant Applications
- Article 6: Sale of Surplus Personal Property and Real Estate
- Article 7: Transfer from Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue
- Article 8: Transfer from Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue

Motion passed, 200 in favor, 10 opposed, 7 abstained.

ARTICLE 1: TOWN REPORT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Officers and Committees as printed in the Annual Town Report; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: SPENDING LIMITS

To see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, s.53E1/2, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024:

Revolving Fund	FY25 Spending Limit
Hazardous Spill	\$ 20,000
Gas Inspector	\$ 15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 25,000
Excavation and Trench Permit	\$ 5,000
Airport Fuel	\$250,000
Sealer of Weights and Measures	\$ 15,000
Board of Health	\$ 30,000
Landfill & Recycling	\$ 30,000
Landfill & Recycling	\$ 30,000
Dog Fund	\$ 50,000
Planning Board	\$ 25,000
Council on Aging	\$ 6,000
Conservation Commission	\$ 10,000
Police Details	\$ 20,000

ARTICLE 3: COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements with the approval of the Board of Selectmen during Fiscal 2025 as permitted by M.G.L. c44, §53F; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: AUTHORIZE BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 in accordance with the M.G.L. c44, §4; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: GRANT APPLICATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any State and Federal grants that do not require Town appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen or their designee to sell or otherwise dispose of surplus or obsolete personal property and surplus real estate of the Town in accordance with Chapter 76 of the *General Bylaws of the Town of Orange* and the procedures required by M.G.L. c.30B §15 and §16; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER FROM TRANSFER STATION WINDOW STICKER REVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$10,625.00 from the Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue Account to the Landfill Monitoring/Maintenance account in accordance with M.G.L. c.44 §28C (f) to pay for expenditures of the cost of maintenance of inactive landfill or other solid waste facilities; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER FROM TRANSFER STATION WINDOW STICKER REVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$ 5,500.00 from the Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue Account to Sanitation part time Wages Account in accordance with M.G.L.c.44 s28C [f] to pay for expenditures of the cost of maintenance of existing inactive Landfill or other solid waste facilities; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$995,665.00 for the Water Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F ½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or to take any action relative thereto.

REVENUES

User Fees	\$940,202
Investment Income	\$3,865
Water Liens	\$38,271
Misc. Revenue	\$1,327
Development Charges	\$12,000
Retained Earnings	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$995,665

EXPENSES

	Direct
Commission Salary	\$0
Salaries & Wages	\$379,200
Expenses	\$397,700
Equipment	\$37,500
Capital Outlay	\$30,000
Emergency Reserve	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$859,400

Indirect

Retirement	\$45,000
Workers Comp.	\$8,800
Medicare	\$3,500
Health Insurance	\$52,000
Dental Insurance	\$2,400
Life Insurance	\$200
Other Insurance	\$5,800
Collection Dept.	\$5,750

Accountant & Treasurer Dept	\$12,815
Subtotal	\$136,265
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$995,665
SURPLUS (Net):	\$0

I move that the Town to appropriate the sum of \$995,665.00 for the Water Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F ½, amount to be funded from the sources as presented.

Motion passed, 192 in favor, 12 opposed, 12 abstained.

ARTICLE 10: WWTP/SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,600,831.13 for the WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or to take any other action relative thereto.

User Fees	1,380,621.13
Connection Fees	200.00
Sewer Liens & Fees	40,000.00
Retained Earnings	180,010.00
TOTAL REVENUES	1,600,831.13

EXPENSES

Direct Costs

Salaries & Wages	410,741.58
Expenses	464,704.39
Capital Outlay	40,000.00
Debt & Interest	533,091.16
Emergency Reserve	10,000.00
Subtotal	1,458,537.13

Indirect

Retirement	\$53,855.00
Workers Comp.	\$13,170.00
Medicare	\$3,000.00
Health Insurance	\$52,000.00
Dental Insurance	\$4,200.00
Life Insurance	\$132.00
Other Insurance	\$3,323.00
Collection Dept.	\$3,668.00
Accountant & Treasurer Dept	\$8,946.00
Subtotal	\$142,294.00

TOTAL BUDGET **\$1,600,831.13**

I move that the Town appropriate the sum of \$1,600,831.13 for the WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F½, amount to be funded from the sources as presented.

Motion passed, 180 in favor, 22 opposed, 10 abstained.

ARTICLE 11: TOWN BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2025

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024; or take any other action relative thereto. (OMNIBUS BUDGET)

I move to raise and appropriate \$26,796,303.09 and transfer from free cash \$559,943.57 to defray the expenses of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024.

Motion to amend Treasurer Salary to \$75,498.17, with \$2,179.28 to be taken from Free Cash – passed, 143, in favor, 63 opposed, 11 abstained,

Motion to combine Cheney Maintenance with Armory-Cheney Maintenance (\$34,500.00) – failed 28 in favor, 195 opposed, 11 abstained.

Motion to reduce General Office Expenses to \$76,000.00 – failed, 59 in favor, 159 opposed, 5 abstained.

Motion to reduce Legal to \$65,000.00 – failed, 47 in favor, 166 opposed, 5 abstained.

Motion to increase Tree Dept. Expense to \$20,000.00 to be taken from Free Cash – failed, 41% in favor, 56% opposed, 3% abstained.

Motion to increase Orange Elementary Schools by \$224,661.00 to be taken from the Stabilization Fund – failed, 25% in favor, 73% opposed, 1% abstained.

Motion to move the question – passed.

Motion to reduce Elementary School to \$8,400,000.00 – failed, 16% in favor, 83% opposed, 1% abstained.

Motion to increase Library Wages to \$183,500.00 and Library Expenses to \$129,500.00 and the fuds to come from Free Cash – motion to amend the increase to \$14,000.00 – motion passed, 144 in favor, 21 opposed, 5 abstained. Motion as amended passed, 102 in favor, 81 opposed, 3 abstained.

Motion to amend the Raise and Appropriate to \$26,793,303.09 and transfer from Free Cash to \$616,122.85 – passed 165 in favor, 10, opposed, 4 abstained.

Motion to approve the budget as amended 161 in favor, 12 opposed, 3 abstained.

Department & Name	FY24	FY25 Fin	
		Allocated	Com recommended
122 - Selectmen		3,680	3,580.00
127 - Town Admin Salary	118,922		105,000.00
128 - Town Admin Wages	48,138		49,582.14
129 - Town Admin Expenses	651		1,325.00
131 - Finance Committee	200		200.00
132 - Reserve Fund	19,428		42,500.00
133 - Town Accountant Salary	79,560		81,946.80
134 - Town Accountant Wages	15,740		13,362.94
135 - Town Accountant Expenses	7,420		2,285.00
136 - Audit	25,000		36,000.00
140 - Assessors Salary	55,981		56,650.00
141 - Assessors Wages	-		0.00
142 - Assessors Expenses	92,801		85,495.00
143 - Treasurer Salary	65,987		75,498.17
144 - Treasurer/HR Wages	45,055		0.00

145 - Treasurer Expenses	32,706	43,955.00
146 - Collector Salary	57,147	58,710.00
147 - Collector Wages	40,209	22,304.00
148 - Collector Expenses	16,562	23,360.00
149 - Collector Tax Title Costs	33,280	7,000.00
151 - Legal	74,000	70,000.00
155 - Vadar	15,783	15,992.55
159 - General Office Expenses	75,987	112,851.15
160 - Town Clerk Salary	66,174	68,112.00
161 - Town Clerk Wages	21,055	28,198.53
162 - Town Clerk Expenses	11,515	11,465.00
163 - Registrars/Elections	25,897	28,650.00
171 - Conservation Commission	309	309.00
175 - Planning Board	600	0.00
176 - Zoning Board of Appeals	97	97.00
180 - Community Development Salary	100,000	0.00
181 - CD Technician	70,227	10,333.81
182 - CD Expenses	5,450	2,890.58
192 - Town Hall Maintenance	61,137	57,750.00
195 - Town Reports	1,500	1,500.00
197 - Armory/Cheney Maintenance	45,370	7,300.00
Cheney Maintenance		27,200.00
	<u>1,333,570</u>	<u>1,151,403.67</u>

210 - Police Chief Salary	114,222	119,611.00
211 - Police Wages	1,285,482	1,235,464.00
212 - Police Expenses	124,925	120,275.00
220 - Fire Chief Salary	119,459	119,458.95
221 - Fire Wages	1,396,056	1,369,622.05
222 - Fire Expenses	257,919	257,919.00
234 - Emergency Management	3,000	3,000.00
240 - Bldg Inspector Salary	83,060	74,000.00
241 - Bldg Dept Wages	48,915	43,949.00
242 - Bldg Dept Expenses	21,775	7,550.00
245 - Electric Inspector Salary	32,065	33,976.00
246 - Alternate Elec. Inspector Wages	649	649.00
248 - Animal Inspector Salary	2,000	0.00
249 - Animal Inspector Expenses	24	0.00
260 - Municipal Hearing Officer Salary	2,500	2,500.00
292 - Dog Officer Revolving	37,559	42,376.00
295 - Tree Dept Expenses	20,000	10,000.00
	<u>3,549,610</u>	<u>3,440,350.00</u>

301 - Orange Elementary Schools	7,943,228	8,653,902.00
302 - SPED	-	

330 - Pupil Transportation-Smith

Agricultural

391 - Mahar Regional School Assessment	5,340,668	5,246,895.00
394 - Franklin County Tech School Assessment	667,503	626,316.57
	13,951,399	14,527,114

411 - Public Works Superintendent Salary	88,308	87,550.00
421 - Highway Wages	723,917	605,620.00
422 - Highway Expenses	396,944	376,563.00
423 - Snow & Ice	155,267	155,267.00
424 - Street Lights	43,000	15,000.00
430 - FR City Solid Waste Assessment	25,697	28,337.00
432 - Sanitation Manager Salary	65,674	0.00
433 - Sanitation Wages	72,957	82,950.00
434 - Sanitation Expenses	166,671	162,413.00
482 - Airport Manager Salary	89,508	92,157.00
483 - Airport Wages	51,319	38,400.00
484 - Airport Expenses	60,220	54,283.00
	1,939,482	1,698,540.00

510 - Board of Health Salary	72,207	70,854.00
511 - Board of Health Wages	8,775	9,072.00
539 - COA Salary	56,147	45,000.00
541 - COA Expenses	3,325	0.00
543 - Veterans Services	24,192	24,774.00
544 - Veterans Benefits	110,000	75,000.00
610 - Library Director Salary	66,560	67,000.00
611 - Library Wages	182,300	183,500.00
612 - Library Expenses	129,725	124,500.00
693 - Agriculture	400	300.00
	653,632	600,000.00

710 - Long Term Debt Principal	567,345	773,124.40
751 - Long Term Debt Interest	1,029,285	858,165.42
752 - Short Term Debt Interest	5,000	5,000.00
753 - Mahar Debt	149,293	144,261.00
	1,750,923	1,780,550.82

830 - County Assessments	44,093	39,505.00
911 - Retirement Assessments	1,152,968	1,233,312.00
912 - Workers Compensation	73,447	85,000.00
913 - Unemployment Insurance	35,000	35,000.00

914 - Group Health & Life Insurance	1,978,100	2,082,778.00
915 - Dental Insurance	108,809	111,000.00
916 - Town Share Medicare	163,350	165,000.00
940 - AOTV	120,000	120,000.00
944 - Police & Fire Insurance	44,339	43,405.00
945 - General Liability Insurance	272,000	296,467.88
	3,992,105	4,211,468
	27,170,720	27,409,426

FY 24: revenue used	26,143,971	26,793,303.09
free cash used	1,026,749.59	616,122.85
free cash as % of budget	3.8%	2.2%

Motion to adjourn to Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at 10:19 p.m., passed.

A quorum being present, the Moderator opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 12: ELECTED OFFICERS COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by M.G.L. c.41, §108 effective July 1, 2024, as contained in the budget; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town fix the compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by M.G.L. c.41, §108 effective July 1, 2024, as contained in the budget.

Motion passed, 105 in favor, 15 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 13 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER FUNDING

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$62,000 from the Community Dev Stabilization Fund to Community Development Coordinator Salary account, to be able to fund that position's salary; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town transfer \$62,000 from the Community Dev Stabilization Fund to Community Development Coordinator Salary account, to be able to fund that position's salary.

Motion passed, 107 in favor, 14 opposed.

ARTICLE 14: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER EXPENSES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$2,559.42 from the Community Dev Stabilization Fund to Community Development Expenses account; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town transfer \$2,559.42 from the Community Dev Stabilization Fund to Community Development Expenses account.

Motion passed, 96 in favor, 14 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 15: REVOKE DEDICATION MARIJUANA EXCISE TAX

To see if the Town will vote to revoke the dedication of Marijuana Excise Tax proceeds into Community Stabilization Fund, as established at the January 7, 2021 Special Town Meeting, the

purpose of which was to fund community and economic development activities as recommended by the Department of Community and Economic Development, and dedicate all such proceeds to the General Fund; or to take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town revoke the dedication of Marijuana Excise Tax proceeds into Community Stabilization Fund, as established at the January 7, 2021 Special Town Meeting, the purpose of which was to fund community and economic development activities as recommended by the Department of Community and Economic Development, and dedicate all such proceeds to the General Fund.

Motion failed, 5 in favor, 116 opposed.

ARTICLE 16: VOLUNTARY DEMOLITION ZONING BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw by adding a new section 5148 Voluntary Demolition of single or two family dwellings as set forth herein and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of The Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

Orange Zoning Bylaw Amendment for Voluntary Demolition

Preexisting single- or two-family nonconforming residential structures may be reconstructed, changed, extended or altered without the necessity of a public hearing, provided that it is determined that:

- 1) no such reconstruction, change, extension or alteration shall increase the nonconforming nature of said structure;
- 2) there shall be no change in the footprint for the building from the original building footprint;
- 3) there shall be no change in the gross floor area for the building from the original building gross floor area;
- 4) there shall be a site plan accompanying the building permit application that shall show the location of the well, septic system and original location of the building; and,
- 5) reconstruction shall be completed within five (5) years of the demolition unless an extension is granted for good cause by the Planning Board prior to the expiration of the five (5) years.

Such determination shall be made by the Building Inspector or Commissioner.

In the event that such reconstruction, change, extension or alteration fails to meet the criteria listed in sections 1 – 5 herein, no such reconstruction, change, extension or alteration shall be permitted unless a special permit is granted by the Planning Board pursuant to section 3300 and a finding that such reconstruction, change, extension or alteration shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconformity to the neighborhood and that the project conforms to the criteria set forth in section 3300.

If the owner or his agent fails to obtain the proper permits for the demolition or any other work to be performed on the property, regardless of meeting the criteria listed above in 1 – 5, the owner will need to acquire a special permit from the Planning Board pursuant to section 3300 , a determination that the reconstruction, change, extension or alteration shall not be substantially more detrimental than the existing nonconformity to the neighborhood, and that the project conforms to the criteria set forth in section 3300.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw as presented.

Motion to amend from five years to two years in #5. Motion failed, 16 in favor, 109 opposed, 3 abstained.

Motion passed, 120 in favor, 5 opposed, 4 abstained.

ARTICLE 17: ZONING BYLAW USE REGULATION SCHEDULE SHORT TERM RENTALS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw Use Regulation Schedule, Section 5131, to add a new use: Short-Term Rentals, and further to add a new definition for Short-Term Rentals to Section 2: Definitions of the Orange Zoning Bylaw, that would provide as follows; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the code of Orange; or take any action relative thereto.

DISTRICT	RV	B	I	R	RR	DT
<u>5131 Residential Uses</u>						
Short-Term Rentals that meet the requirements of section 7900	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Short Term Rental shall mean an occupied residential property or portion thereof where at least one room or unit is rented out by an operator through the use of advance reservations, that is not a hotel, motel, lodging house, time share property or bed and breakfast establishment. A short-term rental includes an apartment, house, cottage, condominium or a portion thereof. It does not include residential property that is rented out through tenancies at will or by lease for longer periods of time; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of the code of Orange; or take any action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw as presented.

Motion to pass over this article. Motion failed, 15% in favor, 83% opposed, 2% abstained.

Motion to remove the word occupied in the first paragraph. Motion passed, 113 in favor, 6 opposed, 4 abstained.

Motion as amended, passed, 105 in favor, 13 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 18: SHORT TERM RENTAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw to add a new section 7900 PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTALS, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 7900, Performance Standards for Short-Term Rentals; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw to be permitted in order that it may be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

7900 Performance Standards for Short-Term Rentals

The Town of Orange supports the safe and legal operation of Short-Term Rental dwellings to support the local economy and offer a variety of overnight lodging options for visitors to the Town. This Performance Standard section will offer the assurance that all Short-Term Rental properties will be acceptable uses within the Town of Orange so long as the Performance Standards are met for any given property and that the property owner has applied for and received a Registration of the property as a short-term rental and applied for and received a Business Certificate.

7910 Performance Standards

1. The property owner must apply to register the property on a form provided by the Town of Orange and receive a registration and shall apply and receive a Business Certificate from the Town of Orange
2. The property shall be in compliance with all relevant state and local statutes, rules, and regulations pertaining to health and safety.
3. The property owner shall provide, with the Registration Application, a copy of the Registration Certificate with the MA Department of Revenue for each dwelling unit they are registering.
4. A registration fee of \$100 shall be paid at the time of registration and \$75 at each renewal.
5. Lack of compliance with these Performance Standards or any complaint arising from the use of the property will be referred to the appropriate town department for investigation. If the property owner is found to be in violation of the Performance Standards, the Short-Term Rental Registration may be revoked after hearing with 7 days advance notice and may not be renewed until the property is in compliance with Section 7900; or to take any action relative thereto.

I move that the Town amend the Town of Orange Zoning Bylaw as presented.

Motion passed, 109 in favor, 13 in favor, 6 opposed.

ARTICLE 19: INFLUENT PUMP SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT

To see it the Town will appropriate \$1,500,000.00 to pay costs of upgrading the failed Orange Wastewater Treatment Facility Influent Pumping System and appurtenances thereto, including, but not limited to, planning, bidding and construction, as well as all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$1,500,000.00 of said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town upon such terms as the Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen shall determine and that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c.44 section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by like amount.; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town appropriate \$1,500,000.00 to pay costs of upgrading the failed Orange Wastewater Treatment Facility Influent Pumping System and appurtenances thereto, including, but not limited to, planning, bidding and construction, as well as all other costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet this appropriation to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow \$1,500,000.00 of said sum under General Laws Chapter 44, or any other enabling authority and issue bonds or notes of the Town upon such terms as the Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen shall determine and that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with M.G.L. c.44 section 20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by like amount.

Motion passed, 116 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 20: CONSULTING FEE BYLAW

To see if the Town will adopt the following General Bylaw for the Town of Orange to provide for Boards, Commissions, Committees and Officials to hire consultants to advise the Board, Commission, Committee or Official on an application or other request before them and to charge such expense to the applicant or requesting party; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw

be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of The Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

Expenses for advertising, notices, inspections and professional review will be borne by the applicant.

A. As provided by M.G.L. Ch. 44 §53G, any Board, Commission, Committee or Official of the Town of Orange may impose reasonable fees for the employment of outside consultants, engaged by the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official for specific expert services when, in the opinion of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official, the services are necessary for the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official to come to a final decision on an application submitted to the Board, Commission, Committee or Official pursuant to the requirements of: The Town of Orange Zoning or General Bylaws, Town of Orange Subdivision Regulations, or any other state or municipal statute, bylaw or regulation, as they may be amended or enacted from time to time. The Board, Commission, Committee, or Official may also impose fees for other consultant services for the review of the plans, surveys, or inspections under any of the above-referenced laws or regulations.

B. Special Account. Funds received pursuant to these rules shall be deposited with the town treasurer who shall establish a special account for this purpose.

Expenditures from this special account may be made at the direction of the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official without further appropriation as provided in G.L. Ch. 44 §53G. Expenditures from this account shall be made only in connection with a specific project or projects for which a consultant fee has been collected from the applicant and only in connection with the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official carrying out its responsibilities under the law. Expenditures of accrued interest may also be made for these purposes. Any excess amount in the account attributable to a specific project, including any accrued interest, at the completion of said project shall be repaid to the applicant or to the applicant's successor in interest and a final report of said account shall be made available to the applicant or to the applicant's successor in interest.

C. Reporting Requirements. The Town Accountant shall submit annually a report of said special account to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator for their review. The report shall be published in the town annual report. The Town Accountant shall submit annually a copy of this report to the director or the bureau of accounts.

D. Consultant Services. In hiring outside consultants, the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official may engage professional engineers, planners, landscape architects, wildlife scientists, lawyers, designers, or other appropriate professionals able to assist the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official and to ensure compliance with all relevant laws, ordinances, bylaws, and regulations. Specific consultant services may include but are not limited to analysis of applications, title searches, mapping of lot and/or municipal boundaries and/or rights of way, and environmental or land use law. Services may also include on-site monitoring during construction, or other services related to the project deemed necessary by the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official. The consultant shall be chosen by, and report only to, the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official and/or its administrator. Consultants retained shall have an educational degree in or related to the field at issue or three or more years of practice in the field at issue or a related field.

E. Appeals of Choice of Consultant. Applicants may appeal the selection of the consultant to the Board of Selectmen. The grounds for such an appeal shall be limited to claims that the consultant selected has a conflict of interest or does not possess the minimum, required qualifications. The required time limits for action upon an application by the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official shall be extended by the duration of the administrative appeal. In the event that no decision is made by the Board of Selectmen within one month following the filing of the appeal, the selection made by the Board, Commission, Committee, or Official of the Town of Orange shall stand. Such an administrative appeal shall not preclude further judicial review if otherwise permitted by law, on

grounds provided for in this section.

I move that the Town adopt the General Bylaw as presented.

Motion passed, 94 in favor, 14 opposed, 5 abstained.

ARTICLE 21: TRANSFER FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account the sum of \$55,935 for the 5th payment for the Fire Department Ambulance; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer and appropriate from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account the sum of \$55,935 for the 5th payment for the Fire Department Ambulance.

Motion passed, 114 in favor, 4 opposed.

ARTICLE 22: RESCIND BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the borrowing authorizations from prior town meetings:

STM 09/14/2020 – Article 16 Capital Plan Borrowing FY21 – Plow Truck - rescind \$14,769.00

ATM 06/21/2021 – Article 15 Capital Plan Borrowing FY22 – Election Booths - rescind \$4,000.00; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town rescind the borrowing authorizations from prior town meetings:

STM 09/14/2020 – Article 16 Capital Plan Borrowing FY21 – Plow Truck - rescind \$14,769.00

ATM 06/21/2021 – Article 15 Capital Plan Borrowing FY22 – Election Booths - rescind \$4,000.00.

Motion 124 in favor, 1 opposed.

ARTICLE 23: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE BYLAW CHANGE

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Capital Improvement Planning Committee bylaw as follows:
Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

§ 12-11. Establishment; membership; terms; officers.

The Board of Selectmen shall establish and appoint a committee to be known as the “Capital Improvement Planning Committee,” composed of one member of the Board of Selectmen, appointed by the Selectmen, ~~one member of the Finance Committee, appointed by the Chairman thereof,~~ and ~~three~~ four members at large for initial one-, two- and three-year terms; thereafter the terms shall be for three years. The Town Administrator shall be, and the Town Accountant may be Committee staff members without the right to vote. A sixth member from the general public shall be appointed annually to serve as an alternate and will vote in this capacity when needed. Annually, after July 1, the Committee shall reorganize by electing its own officers, consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk. If a vacancy occurs, it shall be filled by the appointing authority that appointed the member whose position has become vacant.

§ 12-12 Responsibilities.

The Committee shall study proposed capital expenditures that are made in order to provide, replace, or improve the facilities that furnish services to the public. For the purpose of this article, a capital improvement or project is a physical betterment or item of equipment or project having a useful life of at least ~~one~~ three years and a total cost that exceeds \$5,000 \$10,000. All department heads, boards, and committees, including the Selectmen, shall, by October 1 of each year, give to the Committee, on forms prepared by it, information concerning all anticipated projects requiring Town Meeting action

during the ensuing five years. The Committee shall consider the relative need, impact, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the Town. No appropriation shall be voted for a capital expenditure requested by a department, board or committee unless the proposed capital improvement is considered in the Committee's report, or the Committee shall first have submitted a report to the Board of Selectmen explaining the omission, and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format of The Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town amend the Capital Improvement Planning Committee as presented.

Motion passed, 117 in favor, 4 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 24: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- SEIU, LOCAL 888 (MAINTENANCE UNIT):

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,546.28, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (2% Base Wage; Add new 2% Steps 7,8,9,10), and further approve future increases (FY26 2%, FY27 2%) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the maintenance unit employees (represented by the SEIU, Local 888 (Maintenance Unit) in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$32,546.28, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (2% Base Wage; Add new 2% Steps 7,8,9,10), and further approve future increases (FY26 2%, FY27 2%) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the maintenance unit employees (represented by the SEIU, Local 888 (Maintenance Unit) in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion to pass over. Motion failed, 20 in favor, 105 opposed, 1 abstained.

Motion passed, 100 in favor, 17 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 25: COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT- ORANGE CAREER FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 4569:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,316.20, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (2.5% Base Wage; 0.5%EMT-P; Clothing Allowance; OIC-PAY; Education Language), and further approve future increases (FY26 3%, FY27 3%) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the Fire Dept. employees (represented by the Local 4569 Orange Career Firefighters in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$46,316.20, to fund the cost of increases in bargaining unit members' wages for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 (2.5% Base Wage; 0.5%EMT-P; Clothing Allowance; OIC-PAY; Education Language), and further approve future increases (FY26 3%, FY27 3%) under the Collective Bargaining agreement signed and ratified between the Town of Orange (represented by the Board of Selectmen) and the Fire Dept. employees (represented by the Local 4569 Orange Career Firefighters in accordance with the Chapter 150E of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Motion passed, 110 in favor, 14 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 26: WATER TOWER BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$1,000,000.00 for a Water Tower for A Potable Water / Fire Suppression System at the

Orange Industrial Park, which matches the \$1,000,000.00 MassWorks Grant and \$835,700.00 in ARPA funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town , borrow the sum of \$1,000,000.00 for a Water Tower for A Potable Water / Fire Suppression System at the Orange Industrial Park, which matches the \$1,000,000.00 MassWorks Grant and \$835,700.00 in ARPA funds.

Motion to allow Lee Chavette speak in regards to this issue as he is not a resident. Motion passed.

Motion to pass over Articles 26 and 27. Motion failed, 29 in favor, 89 opposed, 1 abstained.

Motion passed, 81 in favor, 39, opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 27: FIRE SUPPRESSION TOWER

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, borrow, or otherwise provide the sum of \$750,000.00 for a Water Tower Fire Suppression System at the Orange Industrial Park, which matches the \$1,000,000.00 MassWorks Grant and \$835,700.00 in ARPA funds; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 2/3rd vote)

I move that the Town borrow the sum of \$750,000.00 for a Water Tower Fire Suppression System at the Orange Industrial Park, which matches the \$1,000,000.00 MassWorks Grant and \$835,700.00 in ARPA funds.

Passed over due to passing of Article 26.

Motion to adjourn at 9:54 p.m. Motion failed, 27 in favor, 80 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 28: FRAUDULENT INVOICES

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$169,000 to offset half of the receivable created by payment of fraudulent invoices, as the incident remains under investigation; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move that the Town transfer from Free Cash \$169,000 to offset half of the receivable created by payment of fraudulent invoices, as the incident remains under investigation.

Motion failed, 15 in favor, 86 opposed.

ARTICLE 29: HOLTSHIRE ROAD SPECIAL LEGISLATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to request special legislation for the town to convey 295 Holtshire Rd and 283 Holtshire Rd., and further to allow changes made by House Counsel and Senate Counsel and approved by the Board of Selectmen, said special legislation as follows:

An Act Authorizing the Town of Orange To Convey a Certain Parcel of Land

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

Section 1. The Water Department of the Town of Orange may release from water supply designation five (5) certain parcels of land totaling approximately 13,410 square feet, more or less, located at Lake Mattawa, in said Town to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Orange for the purpose of conveying such parcels, by lot or otherwise. The land was acquired by the Town of Orange Water Department for water supply purposes as part of a 35-acre parcel by deed dated on or about May 26, 1894, and

recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 433, Page 228, and the Water Department has determined that the approximately 13,410 square feet of land at Lake Mattawa is surplus property no longer needed for water supply protection purposes. Said parcels are more specifically shown as Parcel A, Parcel B, Parcel C, Parcel D, and Parcel E on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land Holtshire Road, Orange MA," dated March 11, 2020, and prepared by Edward T. Berry, PLS.

Said Town shall designate, as replacement land, a parcel of land on Lake Mattawa at 129 Lake Mattawa Road, more specifically shown as Lot 113 on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Orange, Massachusetts, owned by the Town of Orange," dated June 9, 2006 and revised on August 25, 2009, by Berry Engineering, Inc., more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the shoreline of Lake Mattawa, said point marking the northwest corner of the affected premises; thence N 53° 26' 04" E a distance of 140.00 feet, more or less, to a stake; thence turning and running N 73° 41' 00" E a distance of 26.81 feet, more or less, to a point, the last two courses being along Lot 114 as shown on the aforementioned plan; thence turning and running S 08° 55' 54" W a distance of 61.52 feet, more or less, to Pole 73-1; thence proceeding S 08° 76' 39" E a distance of 107.61 feet, more or less, to a point; thence turning and running S 76° 02' 17" W a distance of 15.46 feet, more or less, to an iron pin; thence proceeding S 70° 27' 04" W a distance of 69.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the shoreline of Lake Mattawa, the last 2 courses being along Lot 111 as shown on the aforementioned plan; thence turning and running northwesterly along the shoreline of Lake Mattawa a distance of 125.00 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning. Containing 16,370 square feet, more or less.

Section 2. Notwithstanding chapter 30B of the General Laws, but subject to paragraphs (a), (b) and (g) of Section 16 of Chapter 30B, the Town of Orange, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen, may transfer or convey, by lot or otherwise, the property at Lake Mattawa containing approximately 13,410 square feet for fair market value to the current occupants on the land. The five subject parcels are more specifically shown as Parcel A, Parcel B, Parcel C, Parcel D, and Parcel E on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land Holtshire Road, Orange MA," dated March 11, 2020, and prepared by Edward T. Berry, PLS, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

Parcel A

Beginning at a point on the easterly side of the 1896 Franklin County Layout, known as Holtshire Road, concurrent with the high water mark of Lake Mattawa, said point marking the northernmost point of the affected parcel; thence running southerly along the high water mark of Lake Mattawa a distance of 88.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark; thence turning and running S 71° 04' 00" W a distance of 36.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Holtshire Road; thence turning and running N 32° 41' 00" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 64.00 feet, more less, to the point of beginning. Containing 450 square feet, more or less.

Parcel B

Beginning at a point on the easterly side of the 1896 Franklin County Layout, known as Holtshire Road, said point marking the northwest corner of the affected parcel; thence turning and running N 71° 04' 00" E a distance of 36.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark of Lake Mattawa; thence turning and running southerly along the high water mark of Lake Mattawa a distance of 127.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark; thence turning and running S 69° 45' 52" W a distance of 13.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Holtshire Road; thence turning and running N 32° 41' 00" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 128.97 feet, more less, to the point of beginning. Containing 3,520 square feet, more or less.

Parcel C

Beginning at a point on the easterly side of the 1896 Franklin County Layout, known as Holtshire Road, said point marking the northwest corner of the affected parcel; thence turning and running N 69° 45' 52" E a distance of 13.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark of Lake

Mattawa; thence turning and running southerly along the high water mark of Lake Mattawa a distance of 64.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark; thence turning and running S 71° 04' 22" W a distance of 10.00 feet, more or less, to a point on easterly side of Holtshire Road; thence turning and running N 08° 22' 36" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 13.44 feet, more less, to a point on the easterly side of Holtshire Road; thence proceeding N 32° 41' 00" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 44.60 feet, more less, to the point of beginning. Containing 660 square feet, more or less.

Parcel D

Beginning at a point on the easterly side of the 1896 Franklin County Layout, known as Holtshire Road, said point marking the northwest corner of the affected parcel; thence turning and running N 71° 04' 22" E a distance of 10.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark of Lake Mattawa; thence turning and running southerly along the high water mark of Lake Mattawa a distance of 67.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark; thence turning and running S 69° 45' 52" W a distance of 48.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Holtshire Road; thence turning and running N 08° 22' 36" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 62.38 feet, more less, to the point of beginning. Containing 1,575 square feet, more or less.

Parcel E

Beginning at a point on the easterly side of the 1896 Franklin County Layout, known as Holtshire Road, said point marking the northwest corner of the affected parcel; thence turning and running N 69° 45' 52" E a distance of 48.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the high water mark of Lake Mattawa; thence turning and running southerly along the high water mark of Lake Mattawa a distance of 235.00 feet, more or less, to a point on the easterly side of Holtshire Road, concurrent with the high water mark of Lake Mattawa; thence turning and running N 04° 08' 32" W along Holtshire Road a distance of 95.00 feet, more less, to the point of beginning. Containing 7,205 square feet, more or less.

Section 3. The proceeds of the disposition of the property in section 2 after expenses, shall be allocated as follows: (i) 50 percent (50%) shall be deposited into the Town treasury, and (ii) 50 percent (50%) shall be remitted to the Town of Orange Water Department Enterprise Fund to be used generally for water supply purposes and other costs associated with the development of water supply.

Section 4. This act shall take effect upon its passage.
or take any other action related thereto.

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to request special legislation for the town to convey 295 Holtshire Rd and 283 Holtshire Rd., and further to allow changes made by House Counsel and Senate Counsel and approved by the Board of Selectmen, said special legislation as presented.
Motion to amend by deleting in Section 1, second and seventh lines 13,410 square feet and to substitute .38 acres more or less, and to amend Section 2, 4th line by deleting 13,410 square feet and substituting .38 acres more or less, passed, 104 in favor, 4 opposed, 1 abstained.

Motion to amend by inserting 7,205 square feet of land in place of 13,410 in the first paragraph and to eliminate the conveyance of parcel A, B, C, and D, failed 17 in favor, 93 opposed, 2 abstained.

Motion as amended passed, 92 in favor, 10 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 30: PETITION ARTICLE FOR A FORENSIC AUDIT

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide the sum of an amount not exceed Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) to hire a forensic auditor; or take any other action related thereto.

I move to have the Town Administrator hire an auditor to perform a forensic audit which would include, but not be limited to, an audit of all revenue, trust funds, transfers and expenditures, and the financial accounting system operation. The audit will include the preparation of a report and recommendations to a future Town Meeting. And further, to appropriate an amount not exceed Ten Thousand dollars (\$10,000) from Free Cash to hire the auditor; to be expended under the direction of the Town Administrator, or otherwise act thereon.

Motion to increase the amount to \$36,000.00 and to take it from Free Cash. Motion failed, 12 in favor, 96 opposed, 1 abstained.

Motion failed, 13 in favor, 92 opposed.

Motion to dissolve the meeting at 10:33 P.M. – passed.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 29th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Thomas J. Smith

Patricia J. Lussier

Andrew J. Smith

Jane M. Peirce

Julie N. Davis

Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

05/29/2024

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
WARRANT FOR 2024 STATE PRIMARY**

FRANKLIN,SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in Primaries to meet at the Town Offices, 62 Cheney Street, in said, Orange, on **TUESDAY, THE THIRD DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2024** from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Primary for the candidates of political parties for the following offices:

SENATOR IN CONGRESS	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	SECOND DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR.....	EIGHTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	HAMPSHIRE,FRANKLIN,WORCESTER DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT	SECOND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
CLERK OF COURTS	FRANKLIN COUNTY
REGISTER OF DEEDS	FRANKLIN COUNTY

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Post Office in Orange and Library in North Orange, seven days at least before the time of holding such election and by publishing attested copies thereof, in the local newspapers, in said Town, once at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 7th day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Jane Peirce
Thomas Smith
Patricia Lussier
Andrew Smith
Julie Davis

Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange
FRANKLIN,SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by publishing attested copies thereof in the local newspapers, in said Town, once at least before the time of holding said meeting as within directed.

State Primary - September 3, 2024

Total Registered	3133	3211	6344
Voters	380	397	777
Office/Name	Prec. 1 Total	Prec. 2 Total	Total
Democrat	224	268	492
Senator in Congress			
Warren	212	263	475
Blank	7	5	12
Others	5	0	5
Rep. in Congress			
McGovern	213	263	476
Blank	9	5	14
Others	2	0	2
Councillor			
Jacobs	199	241	440
Blank	25	26	51
Others	0	1	1
Sen. In General Court			
Comerford	200	258	458
Blank	20	10	30
Others	4	0	4
Rep. in General Court			
Blank	189	223	412
Others	35	45	80
Clerk of Courts			
Simanski	203	241	444
Blank	20	27	47
Others	1	0	1
Register of Deeds			
Cote	204	246	450
Blank	20	22	42
Others	0	0	0
Republican	152	122	274

Senator in Congress			
Antonellis	32	28	60
Cain	4	9	13
Deaton	113	82	195
Blank	3	2	5
Others	0	1	1
Representative in Congress			
Blank	140	113	253
Others	12	9	21
Councillor			
Blank	146	113	259
Others	6	9	15
Sen. In General Court			
Blank	145	110	255
Others	7	12	19
Rep. in General Court			
Raymond	117	104	221
Blank	35	17	52
Others	0	1	1
Clerk of Courts			
Blank	147	114	261
Others	5	8	13
Register of Deeds			
Blank	147	112	259
Others	5	10	15
Libertarian	4	7	11
Senator in Congress			
Blank	0	2	2
Others	4	5	9
Rep. in Congress			
Blank	1	3	4
Others	3	4	7
Councillor			
Blank	2	3	5

Others	2	4	6
Sen. In General Court			
Blank	1	3	4
Others	3	4	7
Rep. in General Court			
Blank	2	4	6
Others	2	3	5
Clerk of Courts			
Blank	2	3	5
Others	2	4	6
Register of Deeds			
Blank	2	3	5
Others	2	4	6

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN
SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH
WARRANT FOR 2024 STATE ELECTION**

FRANKLIN,SS.

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in State Elections to meet at the Town Offices, 62 Cheney St., in said, Orange, on **TUESDAY, THE FIFTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024** from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. for the following purpose:

To cast their votes in the State Election for the following offices and questions:

ELECTORS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
SENATOR IN CONGRESS	FOR THIS COMMONWEALTH
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS	SECOND DISTRICT
COUNCILLOR.....	EIGHTH DISTRICT
SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT.....	HAMPSHIRE, FRANKLIN, WORCESTER DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT.....	SECOND FRANKLIN DISTRICT
CLERK OF COURTS	FRANKLIN COUNTY
REGISTER OF DEEDS	FRANKLIN DISTRICT
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE COMM.....	FRANKLIN COUNTY

QUESTION 1: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives on or before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

A YES VOTE would specify that the State auditor has the authority to audit the legislature.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the State Auditor's authority.

QUESTION 2: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma. Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

A YES VOTE would eliminate the requirement that students pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in order to graduate high school but still require students to complete coursework that meets state standards.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the requirement that a student pass the MCAS in order to graduate high school.

QUESTION 3: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would provide Transportation Network Drivers ("Drivers") with the right to form unions ("Driver Organizations") to collectively bargain with Transportation Network Companies ("Companies")-which are companies that use a digital network to connect riders to drivers for pre-arranged transportation-to create negotiated recommendations concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Drivers would not be required to engage in any union activities. Companies would be allowed to form multi-Company associations to represent them when negotiating with Driver Organizations. The state would supervise the labor activities permitted by the proposed law and would have responsibility for approving or disapproving the negotiated recommendations. The proposed law would define certain activities by a Company or a Driver Organization to be unfair work practices. The proposed law would establish a hearing process for the state Employment Relations Board ("Board") to follow when a Company or Driver Organization is charged with an unfair work practice. The proposed law would permit the Board to take action, including awarding compensation to adversely affected Drivers, if it found that an unfair work practice had been committed. The proposed law would provide for an appeal of a Board decision to the state Appeals Court. This proposed law also would establish a

procedure for determining which Drivers are Active Drivers, meaning that they completed more than the median number of rides in the previous six months. The proposed law would establish procedures for the Board to determine that a Driver Organization has signed authorizations from at least five percent of Active Drivers, entitling the Driver Organization to a list of Active Drivers; to designate a Driver Organization as the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers based on signed authorizations from at least twenty-five percent of Active Drivers; to resolve disputes over exclusive bargaining status, including through elections; and to decertify a Driver Organization from exclusive bargaining status. A Driver Organization that has been designated the exclusive bargaining representative would have the exclusive right to represent the Drivers and to receive voluntary membership dues deductions. Once the Board determined that a Driver Organization was the exclusive bargaining representative for all Drivers, the Companies would be required to bargain with that Driver Organization concerning wages, benefits and terms and conditions of work. Once the Driver Organization and Companies reached agreement on wages, benefits, and the terms and conditions of work, that agreement would be voted upon by all Drivers who has completed at least 100 trips the previous quarter. If approved by a majority of votes cast, the recommendations would be submitted to the state Secretary of Labor for approval and if approved, would be effective for three years. The proposed law would establish procedures for the mediation and arbitration if the Driver Organization and Companies failed to reach agreement within a certain period of time. An arbitrator would consider factors set forth in the proposed law, including whether the wages of Drivers would be enough so that Drivers would not need to rely upon any public benefits. The proposed law also sets out procedures for the Secretary of Labor's review and approval of recommendations negotiated by a Driver Organization and the

Companies and for judicial review of the Secretary's decision. The proposed law states that neither its provisions, an agreement nor a determination by the Secretary would be able to lessen labor standards established by other laws. If there were any conflict between the proposed law and existing Massachusetts labor relations law, the proposed law would prevail. The Board would make rules and regulations as appropriate to effectuate the proposed law. The proposed law states that, if any of its parts were declared invalid, the other parts would stay in effect.

A YES VOTE would provide transportation network drivers the option to form unions to collectively bargain with transportation network companies regarding wages, benefits, and terms and conditions of work

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law relative to the ability of transportation network drivers to form unions.

QUESTION 4: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

This proposed law would allow persons aged 21 and older to grow, possess, and use certain natural psychedelic substances in certain circumstances. The psychedelic substances allowed would be two substances found in mushrooms (psilocybin and psilocyn) and three substances found in plants (dimethyltryptamine, mescaline, and ibogaine). These substances could be purchased at an approved location for use under the supervision of a licensed facilitator. This proposed law would otherwise prohibit any retail sale of natural psychedelic substances. This proposed law would also provide for the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would license and regulate facilities offering supervised use of these psychedelic substances and provide for the taxation of proceeds from those facilities' sales of psychedelic substances. It would also allow persons aged 21 and older to grow these psychedelic substances in a 12-foot by 12-foot area at their home and use these

psychedelic substances at their home. This proposed law would authorize persons aged 21 or older to possess up to one gram of psilocybin, one gram of psilocyn, one gram of dimethyltryptamine, 18 grams of mescaline, and 30 grams of ibogaine (“personal use amount”), in addition to whatever they might grow at their home, and to give away up to the personal use amount to a person aged 21 or over. This proposed law would create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Commission of five members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would administer the law governing the use and distribution of these psychedelic substances. The Commission would adopt regulations governing licensing qualifications, security, recordkeeping, education and training, health and safety requirements, testing, and age verification. This proposed law would also create a Natural Psychedelic Substances Advisory Board of 20 members appointed by the Governor, Attorney General, and Treasurer which would study and make recommendations to the Commission on the regulation and taxation of these psychedelic substances. This proposed law would allow cities and towns to reasonably restrict the time, place, and manner of the operation of licensed facilities offering psychedelic substances, but cities and towns could not ban those facilities or their provision of these substances. The proceeds of sales of psychedelic substances at licensed facilities would be subject to the state sales tax and an additional excise tax of 15 percent. In addition, a city or town could impose a separate tax of up to two percent. Revenue received from the additional state excise tax, license application fees, and civil penalties for violations of this proposed law would be deposited in a Natural Psychedelic Substances Regulation Fund and would be used, subject to appropriation, for administration of this proposed law. Using the psychedelic substances as permitted by this proposed law could not be a basis to deny a person medical care or public assistance, impose discipline by a professional licensing board, or enter adverse orders in child custody cases absent clear and convincing evidence that the activities created an unreasonable danger to the safety of a minor child. This proposed law would not affect existing laws regarding the operation of motor vehicles while under the influence, or the ability of employers to enforce workplace policies restricting the consumption of these psychedelic substances by employees. This proposed law would allow property owners to prohibit the use, display, growing, processing, or sale of these psychedelic substances on their premises. State and local governments could continue to restrict the possession and use of these psychedelic substances in public buildings or at schools. This proposed law would take effect on December 15, 2024.

A YES VOTE would allow persons over age 21 to use certain natural psychedelic substances under licensed supervision and to grow and possess limited quantities of those substances in their home and would create a commission to regulate those substances.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law regarding natural psychedelic substances.

QUESTION 5: LAW PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION

Do you approve of a law summarized below, on which no vote was taken by the Senate or the House of Representatives before May 1, 2024?

SUMMARY

The proposed law would gradually increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker, over the course of five years, on the following schedule:

- To 64% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2025;
- To 73% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2026;
- To 82% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2027;
- To 91% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2028; and
- To 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029

The proposed law would require employers to continue to pay tipped workers the difference between the state minimum wage and the total amount a tipped worker receives in hourly wages plus tips through the end of 2028. The proposed law would also permit employers to calculate this difference over the entire weekly or bi-weekly payroll period. The requirement to pay this difference would cease when the required hourly wage for tipped workers would become 100% of the state minimum wage on January 1, 2029.

Under the proposed law, if an employer pays its workers an hourly wage that is at least the state minimum wage, the employer would be permitted to administer a “tip pool” that combines all the tips given by customers to tipped workers and distributes them among all the workers, including non-tipped workers.

A YES VOTE would increase the minimum hourly wage an employer must pay a tipped worker to the full state minimum wage implemented over five years, at which point employers could pool all tips and distribute them to all non-management workers.

A NO VOTE would make no change in the law governing tip pooling or the minimum wage for tipped workers.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the Post Office in Orange and Library in North Orange, seven days at least before the time of holding such election and by publishing attested copies thereof, in the local newspapers, in said Town, once at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 2nd day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas Smith
Andrew Smith
Patricia Lussier
Julie Davis
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN,SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting and by publishing attested copies thereof in the local newspapers, in said Town, once at least before the time of holding said meeting as within directed.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

October 3, 2024

State Election			
Orange - 22223			
11/5/2024			61%

	Prec 1 - Total	Prec 2 - Total	Total
Total Registered Voters	3196	3250	6446
Ballots Cast	1959	1985	3944
President/Vice President			
Ayyadurai/Ellis	17	17	34
De La Cruz/Garcis	6	6	12
Harris/Walz	878	1001	1879
Oliver/Ter Maat	10	2	12
Stein/Caballero-Roca	10	7	17
Trump/Vance	1015	927	1942
Others	9	8	17
Blank	14	17	31
Senator in Congress			
Elizabeth Ann Warren	854	983	1837
John Deaton	1065	955	2020
Others	3	4	7
Blank	37	43	80
Rep. in Congress			
James McGovern	1007	1119	2126
Cornelius Shea	818	732	1550
Others	4	7	11
Blanks	130	127	257
Councillor			
Tara J. Jacobs	1355	1448	2803
Others	47	38	85
Blanks	557	499	1056
Sen. In General Court			
Jo Comerford	1360	1471	2831
Others	55	34	89
Blanks	544	480	1024
Rep. in General Court			
Susannah M. Whipps	1164	1248	2412
Jeffrey L. Raymond	690	642	1332
Others	3	6	9
Blanks	102	89	191

Clerk of Courts			
Benjamin Simanski	1400	1469	2869
Others	42	32	74
Blanks	517	484	1001
Register of Deeds			
Scott A. Cote	1396	1473	2869
Others	40	31	71
Blanks	523	481	1004
COG Exec. Comm			
Jay D. DiPucchio	1394	1448	2842
Others	23	25	48
Blanks	542	512	1054
Question 1 - Audit Legislature			
Yes	1316	1319	2635
No	518	533	1051
Blanks	125	133	258
Question 2 - MCAS Testing			
Yes	1347	1376	2723
No	571	563	1134
Blanks	41	46	87
Question 3 - Unions for Uber			
Yes	1005	1063	2068
No	852	810	1662
Blanks	102	112	214
Question 4 - Psychedelic Substances			
Yes	862	865	1727
No	1035	1023	2058
Blanks	62	97	159
Question 5 - Increase Wages-Tipped Workers			
Yes	631	705	1336
No	1267	1198	2465
Blanks	61	82	143

TOWN OF ORANGE
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Special Town Meeting
Monday December 2, 2024

FRANKLIN SS:

To the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Monday, the second day of December 2024, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

A quorum being present, the meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.

ARTICLE 1: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,477.50 from Legal Expenses to pay a previous year's bill for MacNicol & Toombs; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer the sum of \$1,477.50 from Legal Expenses to pay a previous year's bill for MacNicol & Toombs.

Motion passed, 74 in favor, 2 opposed.

ARTICLE 2: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,547.11 from Lib- Children's Librarian expenses to pay a previous year's bills for Playaway; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer the sum of \$1,547.11 from Lib- Children's Librarian expenses to pay a previous year's bills for Playaway.

Motion passed, 75 in favor, 0 opposed.

ARTICLE 3: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$787.50. from General Technology 001-159-5382-1000-00000 to pay a previous year's bill for CAI Technologies; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer the sum of \$787.50. from General Technology 001-159-5382-1000-00000 to pay a previous year's bill for CAI Technologies.

Motion passed, 74 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 4: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$110.94 from Public Works Telephone to pay a previous year's bill for Spectrum Enterprise; or take any other action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer the sum of \$110.94 from Public Works Telephone to pay a previous year's bill for Spectrum Enterprise.

Motion passed, 74 in favor, 1 opposed.

ARTICLE 5: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$4,556 from FY25 account #650-710-5902-1000, labeled "Debt Service & Interest" to pay invoice # 23-54-DV, from the Orange Police Department dated 07/10/2023, for the Water Dept. portion of Police Detail Work during the North Main Street Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, being an invoice that did not make inclusion into the State Revolving Fund remittance documentation for the project, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to and transfer the sum of \$4,556 from FY25 account #650-710-5902-1000, labeled "Debt Service & Interest" to pay invoice # 23-54-DV, from the Orange Police Department dated 07/10/2023, for the Water Dept. portion of Police Detail Work during the North Main Street Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project, being an invoice that did not make inclusion into the State Revolving Fund remittance documentation for the project, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years.

Motion passed, 71 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstained.

ARTICLE 6: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$4,556 from FY25 account #660-443-5390-1000, labeled "Purchase Services," to pay invoice #23-54-DV from the Orange Police Department, dated July 10, 2023. This invoice covers the Wastewater Dept. portion of police detail work during the North Main Street Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project. The invoice was not included in the State Revolving Fund remittance documentation for the project. This appropriation is in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64, which allows for the payment of certain unpaid bills from previous years.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer \$4,556 from FY25 account #660-443-5390-1000, labeled "Purchase Services," to pay invoice #23-54-DV from the Orange Police Department, dated July 10, 2023. This invoice covers the Wastewater Dept. portion of police detail work during the North Main Street Water and Sewer Main Replacement Project. The invoice was not included in the State Revolving Fund remittance documentation for the project. This appropriation is in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64, which allows for the payment of certain unpaid bills from previous years.

Motion passed, 73 in favor, 3 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 7: PREVIOUS YEAR'S BILL

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,101.27 from Fire Department Expense to pay National Grid, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years, or take any action relative thereto.

(Requires a 9/10 vote)

I move to transfer the sum of \$1,101.27 from Fire Department Expense to pay National Grid, in accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 64-Appropriation to Pay Certain Unpaid Bills of Previous Years.

Motion passed, 74 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 8: RESCIND HR BYLAW

To see if the Town will vote to rescind the Human Resource/Personnel Policies bylaw, Chapter 52 of the Town of Orange Bylaws, approved under Article 24, of the June 15, 2015 Annual Town Meeting; and further to dissolve the Human Resource Board; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to rescind the Human Resource/Personnel Policies bylaw, Chapter 52 of the Town of Orange Bylaws, approved under Article 24, of the June 15, 2015 Annual Town Meeting; and further to dissolve the Human Resource Board.

Motion passed, 55 in favor, 12 opposed, 9 abstained.

ARTICLE 9: OATH OF OFFICE BYLAW

To see if the Town will approve the following bylaw:

In accordance with M.G.L. c.41, section 107, all newly elected and appointed or re-elected and re-appointed officials or members of a Town of Orange board, commission, or committee shall swear or affirm an oath of faithful performance of their duties at the commencement of each term. The oath will be performed by the Town Clerk before they can assume their position, take a seat or vote in a public meeting of the board, commission or committee that they have been elected or appointed to. Any individual appointed to a position that has not been sworn in by the Town Clerk within 60 days of their appointment shall be deemed to have declined the position; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the number format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to approve the Oath of Office Bylaw as presented.

Motion to amend by changing the word that to who – motion to amend, passed, 57 in favor, 14 opposed, 6 abstained.

Motion as amended passed, 71 in favor, 2 opposed, 5 abstained.

ARTICLE 10: EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WAGES

To see if the Town will appropriate and transfer from Free Cash or another designated account \$10,833.54 to increase funding for the Adm-Admin. Coor. Wages 001-128-5112-1000-00000; or take any action relative thereto.

I move to transfer from Free Cash \$10,833.54 to increase funding for the Adm-Admin. Coor. Wages 001-128-5112-1000-00000.

Motion passed, 52 in favor, 25 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 11: WATER TOWER LAND ACCEPTANCE OR TAKING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by purchase, gift, eminent domain, or otherwise for general municipal purposes, a newly created fee simple parcel abutting 158 Governor Dukakis Drive for the purpose of creating a new buildable lot in the industrial park on the southwesterly side of Governor Dukakis Drive, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from Power Fund Real Estate, LLC, for the construction of a water tower, said land is specifically shown on a plan, to be recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, and is filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk, entitled "Approval Not Required Subdivision Plan for Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. 158 & 184 Governor Dukakis Drive, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts," prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated September 19, 2023, and as amended, and is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe found on the southwesterly side of Governor Dukakis Drive, said point marking the southeasterly corner of the parcel to be conveyed; thence N 86° 15' 22" W along land now

or formerly of Seaman Paper Company of Massachusetts, Inc. a distance of 414.13 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence turning and running N 00° 17' 40" E along land now or formerly of the Grantee, used as the municipal airport, a distance of 49.48 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence turning and running S 86° 15' 22" E along land now or formerly of Power Fund Real Estate, LLC, a distance of 417.58 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point on the westerly side of Governor Dukakis Drive; thence turning and running S 04° 17' 00" W along a curve on Governor Dukakis Drive, with a radius of 650.00 feet, a distance of 49.40 feet, more or less, to the point at the place of beginning, and further to appropriate a sum of money for the acquisition of said parcel or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept as a gift, the land as described in the article, in case the gift deed does not arrive within seven days, the Town authorizes the Board of Selectmen to take by eminent domain the property described in the article, and further to appropriate a sum of \$14,800.00 for the acquisition of said land if taken.

Motion passed by the necessary 2/3, 67 in favor, 8 opposed, 3 abstained.

ARTICLE 12: WATER TOWER LAND ACCEPTANCE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept by gift or otherwise acquire for general municipal purposes, a newly created fee simple parcel abutting 184 Governor Dukakis Drive for the purpose of creating a new buildable lot in the industrial park on the southwesterly side of Governor Dukakis Drive, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts, from Seaman Paper Company of Massachusetts, Inc., for the construction of a water tower, said land is specifically shown on a plan, to be recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, and is filed with the Town of Orange Town Clerk, entitled "Approval Not Required Subdivision Plan for Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. 158 & 184 Governor Dukakis Drive, Town of Orange, Franklin County, Massachusetts," prepared by Colliers Engineering & Design, dated September 19, 2023, and as amended, and is more particularly bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pipe found on the southwesterly side of Governor Dukakis Drive, said point marking the northeasterly corner of the parcel to be conveyed; thence N 86° 15' 22" W along land now or formerly of Power Fund Real Estate, LLC a distance of 271.47 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence turning and running S 03° 44' 38" W along land now or formerly of the Grantor a distance of 100.00 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence turning and running S 86° 15' 22" E along land now or formerly of the Grantor a distance of 165.00 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence turning and running N 62° 37' 09" E along land now or formerly of the Grantor a distance of 99.77 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point on the westerly side of Governor Dukakis Drive; thence turning and running N 30° 28' 53" E along a curve on Governor Dukakis Drive, with a radius of 80.00 feet, a distance of 32.62 feet, more or less, to an unmarked point; thence continuing on the curve on Governor Dukakis Drive N 22° 08' 31" E, with a radius of 30.00 feet, a distance of 20.97 feet, more or less, to the point at the place of beginning; or take any other vote or votes in relation thereto.

(Requires a 2/3 vote)

I move that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept as a gift, the land as described in the article.

Motion passed, 72 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 13: TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT LAYOUT PLAN ACCOUNT TO HANGAR DESIGN PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$9,000.00 from the airport layout plan account to pay the town's portion of a \$268,000.00 federal and state grant for the design phase of a six-bay municipal hangar construction project at the airport; or take any action relative thereto.

I move to transfer the sum of \$9,000.00 from the airport layout plan account to pay the town's portion of a \$268,000.00 federal and state grant for the design phase of a six-bay municipal hangar construction project at the airport.

Motion passed, 77 in favor, 0 opposed.

ARTICLE 14: TRANSFER FROM FREE CASH TO AIRPORT WAGES

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$8,400.00 from free cash or another designated account to the airport wages account to restore the position of airport lineperson from part-time to full-time for the remainder of fiscal year 2025; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move transfer the sum of \$8,400.00 from free cash to the airport wages account to restore the position of airport lineperson from part-time to full-time for the remainder of fiscal year 2025.

Motion passed, 70 in favor, 8 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 15: ANIMALS ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

To see if the Town will vote to approve and adopt the following bylaw, Chapter 175 Article VII: Prohibited conduct; Animals on Streets and Sidewalks; No person shall permit or suffer any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl of any kind or description belonging to him or her, or under his or her care to go at large in or upon any street, sidewalk, or other public place in the town, or upon the private property of another without their expressed permission.

Violations and penalties; Any person guilty of a violation of this article shall be penalized by noncriminal disposition and subject to a fine as set forth in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article I; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to accept the bylaw as presented.

Motion passed, 69 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstained.

ARTICLE 16: NONCRIMINAL DISPOSITION; ENFORCEMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Noncriminal disposition; enforcement bylaw as follows: Chapter I: GENERAL PROVISIONS Article 1 1.2. Noncriminal disposition; enforcement Chapter 175, Article VII of the bylaws “pertaining to any goat, sheep, cow or other neat, equine, swine, or fowl at large or upon any public place in town” Enforcing Agent: Police Department and/or Animal Control Officer. Penalty or Fine: **First Offense:** Notification of town by-law violation and referral to Orange Agricultural Commission. **Second Offense:** Written Warning. **Any subsequent offense:** \$50; and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to amend the Noncriminal Bylaw as presented.

Motion to amend by adding the following after \$50.00, or in the case of large animals \$100.00 for each animal found loose, failed, 16 in favor, 59 opposed, 4 abstained.

Motion as presented, passed, 70 in favor, 8 opposed.

ARTICLE 17: WASTEWATER QUABBIN BLVD/ RANDALL POND PUMPSTATION

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$80,000 from WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings for the replacement and installation of the failed pump at Quabbin Blvd/Randall Pond pumpstation, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53F½; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to appropriate \$80,000 from WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings for the replacement and installation of the failed pump at Quabbin Blvd/Randall Pond pumpstation, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53F½.

Motion passed, 80 in favor, 0 opposed.

ARTICLE 18: WASTEWATER GRIT REMOVAL FROM AERATION BASIN

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$40,000 from WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings for the WWTP aeration basin pumping and grit removal, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53F½; or take any other action relative thereto.

I move to appropriate \$40,000 from WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund retained earnings for the WWTP aeration basin pumping and grit removal, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, §53F½.

Motion passed, 78 in favor, 0 opposed.

Motion to dissolve at 8:37 p.m., passed.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 13th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-four.

Thomas J. Smith
Patricia A. Lussier
Andrew J. Smith
Jane M. Peirce
Julie Davis
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:
Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

November 14, 2024



Orange Municipal Airport – 2024 Annual Report

Financial

According to the Massachusetts Statewide Airport System Plan, Orange Municipal Airport has a role classification of Corporate Business and is a key transportation asset along the Route 2 corridor in Central Massachusetts. The airport attracts some fifteen thousand recreational and corporate business travelers annually and generates an annual economic impact of about \$11 million.

In fiscal year 2024, airport revenue was \$140,883.70 from rentals and leases (up 17% from the previous year), and \$28,406.05 from property taxes. The airport also secured a state reimbursement grant which brought in an additional \$14,000 to the town's FY25 general fund, as well as sold surplus equipment on Municipibid contributing an additional \$3,600 in general fund revenue. The airport also donated a wheel loader with an estimated value of about \$25,000 to the town's highway department.

Including state reimbursements, donations, and surplus equipment sales, the airport's total financial contribution to the town in 2024 was \$211,889.75. The airport's direct operating cost (including salary and wages) was \$192,888.58.

Due to the town's FY24 financial predicament, all town departments were requested in the third quarter to freeze all non-emergency spending. As a result of this spending freeze and a very mild winter, the airport was able to turn back \$10,337.60 to the town.

Due to the town's ongoing financial problems in FY25, the airport was asked to reduce its budget by \$18,856. However, the FY25 budget cuts proved to have an adverse impact on airport safety and efficiency due to the lineperson position being cut from full-time to part-time.

At Special Town Meeting on December 2, 2024, the airport requested funds to restore the position of airport lineperson from part-time to full-time. The article passed and the full-time position was restored.

Perimeter Fence Project

The airport completed a Wildlife Hazard Assessment in 2021. In order to prevent wildlife strikes with aircraft, the report recommends the airport be fully enclosed with a perimeter fence. On April 27, 2024 the airport applied for state and federal funding for the perimeter fence project.

Construction bids were opened on April 7, 2024, and Hastie Fence Company was the lowest bidder. The FAA Grant Offer was issued on July 28, 2024 and the pre-construction meeting was held on January 28, 2025. It is anticipated that construction will start by early February 2025 (weather permitting). The construction duration is sixty days. All design and permitting had been completed under a previous project.

The total project cost is \$1,251,700 (the FAA's share is \$1,126,530 and the state's share is \$125,170). The MassDOT Aeronautics Division has offered to pay the town's local share on this project.

Aeronautical Study for Runway 01 Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) Project

A PAPI is a navigational aid utilizing a system of lights installed on the left side of the runway threshold that provides visual descent guidance information during the final approach.

On February 27, 2024, the airport applied for state and federal funding for the PAPI Aeronautical Study project. The FAA Grant Offer was issued on July 25, 2024. Bluesky International performed the aerial mapping. Obstacle data was prepared and submitted to the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), and NGS approved the report on December 6, 2024.

Upon receiving FAA approval, the airport will coordinate with the FAA to publish a new flight procedure. As well, the FAA has tentatively scheduled the expected chart date for February 20, 2025. Following this date, the airport will be notified by the FAA on when to activate the PAPI for official public use.

The new PAPI system will greatly enhance the safety and utility of the airport, making it even more desirable for corporate business use.

The total project cost is \$74,200 (the FAA's share is \$66,780.00 and the state's share is \$3,710). The town's local share (\$3,710) is being paid from the airport's aviation fuel sales account.

6-Unit T-Hangar Design Project

Significant enhancements made to the airport's infrastructure, runways, and approaches have resulted in a shortage of hangar space at the airport. Several pilots currently based at other airports across the northeast region are now on a waiting list to relocate to our airport.

The airport has secured \$1.3 million in funding through MassDOT and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) grant program for the design and construction of T-hangars. In 2022 the airport was awarded \$159,000 per year, for a five-year period (2022 – 2026), through the BIL grant program. The airport has banked the remainder of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022, along with FFY2023, FFY2024, FFY2025, and FFY2026 BIL appropriations to fund the federal share of this project. The balance of FFY22 BIL funding was used to fund the PAPI Aeronautical Study project.

A project scoping meeting was conducted on October 23, 2024 with the airport, FAA, MassDOT, Airport Solutions Group (ASG), and Epsilon Associates in attendance. At the suggestion of the FAA, a decision was made to phase the project, with design only in FFY2025 and construction in FFY2026. The phased approach also allows the airport to utilize its FFY2022 BIL funds which would have been lost if not used in FFY2025, and to allow the airport more time to provide the town's local share through aviation fuel sales retained earnings.

ASG completed aerial mapping services via drone on November 6, 2024 and submitted the draft scope of work on December 10, 2024. The FAA grant application submission is due by March 3, 2025.

Local share for the design phase was voted unanimously at Special Town Meeting on December 2, 2024 to be transferred from an obsolete Airport Layout Plan (ALP) update project account. Per the FAA, the ALP update project has been rolled into the Airport Master Plan project and rescheduled for FFY2026.

New T-hangars at the airport will both increase revenues to the town and provide much needed hangar space to meet the increased demand. All six hangars have already been reserved by pilots on a waiting list, and there are several more that the airport cannot accommodate at this time.

The total project cost is \$267,106 (the FAA's share is \$253,750.00 and the state's share is \$6,678). The town's local share (\$6,678) is being paid from the airport's aviation fuel sales account. Anticipated revenue to the town from the new T-hangars will be approximately \$38,000 annually.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

The airport's CIP is designed to maximize state and federal grant opportunities to complete airport capital projects at minimal costs to taxpayers. The town's local share for airport improvement grants is typically provided by the airport's aviation fuel sales profits. With the support of the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee, the current airport administration has secured more than \$25 million to complete fifty-three airport improvement projects to date.

On October 10, 2024, the airport met with the FAA and MassDOT Aeronautics Division to approve the airport's CIP totaling more than \$11 million which includes:

- FFY2025 T-Hangar Design
- FFY2026 T-Hangar Construction & Master Plan Update
- FFY2027 Purchase Avigation Easements
- FFY2028 Easement Tree Clearing & EA for Master Plan Improvements
- FFY2029 Reconstruct Runway 14-32
- FFY2030 Install Lighted Windcone

The FAA has increased their share for FFY25 and FFY26 from 90% to 95%. To take advantage of the increased federal share, the more costly T-Hangar construction and Master Plan update projects were programmed in FFY26.

Corporate Hangar Development

The airport has applied for and received a five-year extension of determination for a permit issued by Mass Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) for the proposed construction of a corporate hangar on Taxiway Delta. The NHESP determination has been extended through October 29, 2030.

On December 10, 2024 the airport met with representatives from EDIC, Mass Development, and a large avionics company from Miami Florida to discuss their plans to construct an air charter business, flight school, avionics shop, and aircraft maintenance facility on the site.

Pavement Maintenance

On November 9, 2024 the MassDOT Aeronautics Division performed an inspection of the airport's runway pavement condition. MassDOT has updated the statewide airport pavement condition index (PCI) report. Funding for future runway maintenance and reconstruction projects are dependent upon these PCI reports which can be viewed on the MassDOT website.

Jumpton Annual Report 2024

2024 was another great year at Jumpton! While we had our challenges as usual with New England weather, we managed to increase our numbers all around, especially within our student program. We had twice as many students earn their licenses last year as we did in 2023, and many more have begun the journey. We're looking forward to helping them pick up where they left off this season and welcoming even more into our sky family.

We hosted another national competition with the United States Canopy Piloting Association in July, and two new records were set! Both the general speed record and women's speed record for Massachusetts were broken by power couple Curt and Jeannie Bartholomew. A new sport class was added to the event this year, allowing skydivers with less experience to dip their toes into the world of competition. After several rounds of accuracy and canopy kiting, we are proud to say that Jumpton's own competitors Shawn Keeley and Ava Mitchell took home the overall gold and silver medals!

We also welcomed back our friends with 22Kill, the military sniper group devoted to veteran suicide prevention. They hosted an event at Jumpton where several vets were able to skydive, and the event was complete with music, merch, and good times, continuing at Red Apple Farm later in the day.

We are all looking forward eagerly to the 2025 season, where we hope to once again work with Orange rescue services by performing planned water landings into Lake Mattawa. We also intend to host multiple camps and canopy flight courses to help our skydivers improve their skills and safety both in freefall and under parachute. As always, we thank you for allowing us to live our dreams, and we encourage you to visit us and learn what it's like to soar with the birds!

Blue skies,
Jumptown Team

Election of Officers

At their December 18, 2024 meeting, the airport commissioners elected Cain Blackbird as Chairman and Julie Cole as Vice Chairman of the Orange Airport Commission, for the calendar year 2025. Additional members include Clay Rushford, Steve Canning, and Casey Bashaw.

Len Bedaw – Orange Municipal Airport Manager



Town of Orange

Thomas Smith, *Chair*
Patricia Lussier, *Vice-Chair*
Andrew Smith, *Clerk*
Jane Peirce, *Member*
Julie Davis, *Member*

Office of the Board of Selectmen

taadmin@townoforange.org
Phone: 978-544-1100 ext. 106

The year 2024 was a challenge for the Town of Orange along with most towns in the Commonwealth. The world's reaction to the COVID epidemic caused unease and angst that resulted in goods and services being unavailable or delayed, supply-chain interruptions, and hyperinflation that deeply affected all Orange residents including the municipal leaders. Although the Federal Government and the State provided funds to counteract the effects of the epidemic, those funds "dried up" rather quickly resulting in the tightening of the Town's budget. This does not mean, however, that all is "gloom and doom"...

A major initiative approved by the people of Orange was the Water Tower Project to be located in the Orange Industrial Park. This water tower will provide much needed increased fire protection for Seaman Paper, a large industry located right here in the Town of Orange. It will also be sized appropriately to also provide potable water in other eastern locations of the Town and, hopefully, reduce the occurrences of water hammers resulting in cloudy water elsewhere. The commitment to the project was \$3,990,040.96 of which Seaman Paper graciously contributed \$790,000.

The Town worked closely with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the United States Environmental Protection Agency to complete removal of asbestos-contaminated bricks from the mill building (aka Cereal Factory) fire that occurred at 16-36 West River Street during 2022. The State provided the Town with \$3.4 million dollars to assist with the clean-up. American Environmental Inc. was the primary contractor and managed to perform the clean-up under budget. Conversations are currently underway to discuss the future of the property.

During the June 2024 Annual Town Meeting, the layout of North Main Street project was accepted and the Town voted to approve takings for the parcels of land needed to allow the project to move forward. Onyx Corporation was awarded the bid for \$12.45 million dollars and is scheduled to begin work in late Winter or early Spring of 2025. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be overseeing the project, and it's estimated to take 3-5 years to complete.

Projects and initiatives are always vitally important to the Town. The Selectboard can say with confidence that there is work underway to work closely with the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation of Orange (EDIC). The EDIC has expressed interest in parcels of land to be developed for future businesses and conversations are taking place currently.

The duties of the Board of Selectman are not limited to just projects and initiatives, but overseeing the many people who keep this Town running. There are several new hires and promotions so, please help us welcome Children's Library Aide, Sarah Houghton; Health Inspector, Jason O'Brien; and Building Inspector, Brian Mitchell. We also had several promotions! Former Assistant Collector, Shana Smith was promoted to Town Collector, Jessica Omundsen became the Assistant Collector in conjunction to being the Water/Sewer Administrative Assistant; Larry Delany was appointed Transfer Station Superintendent in conjunction to being the Highway, Parks and Cemetery Superintendent as well as Tree Warden; and Brianne Bruso was appointed as Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator.

In conclusion, all members of the Board of Selectman are proud and honored to serve the resilient residents of the Town of Orange. We tread lightly, but confidently, between the subtleties of individual opinions and the common good, but, in the end, always strive to "do the right thing".



Town of Orange
6 Prospect St., Orange, MA 01364
978-544-1105
Jeffrey Cooke, C.B.O Building Commissioner
Office of the Inspector of Buildings

**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
BUILDING DEPARTMENT**

To the Honorable Selectboard and Citizens of Orange,
I hereby submit my Annual Report of the Building Department.

This year's personnel changes in the Building Department- On May 2024, we welcomed Brian Mitchell as the Conditional Local Inspector for the Building Department. The Inspectors continuing in service are Steve Canning, Inspector of Wires, Warren Jenks, Alternate Inspector of Wires, Casey Bashaw, Plumbing/Gas Inspector and Mike Woodard, Alternate Plumbing/Gas Inspector.

I officially retired on October 31, after 22 years as a Certified Building Official. I have requested to continue after October, as advisor, as Brian Mitchell continues his journey of becoming certified.

Fisher Hill School addition and renovation project has received their temporary Certificate of Occupancy, pending completion of the Special Permit conditions of the site. July 2024 saw the completion of the \$13,000,000.00 plus upgrade to the Wastewater Treatment facility on West Main Street. The West River Street Mill fire rubble pile clean-up is almost completed, DEP approved the Non-traditional Work Plan, (NTWP) for asbestos removal. While the cost of this asbestos clean-up project was anticipated at \$3,800,000.00, the awarding bid was \$1,700,000.00. The Town is exploring the possibility of using the excess funds for clean-up of other sites within the Town. I wish to extend a big thank you to State Representative Whipps and State Senator Commerford for securing \$3.4 million towards the clean-up cost from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Building Department has a public use computer kiosk for anyone that desires to apply using the My Government Online (MGO). The kiosk is for any online MGO permits whether Building, Board of Health, Fire, Highway, Conservation Commission, Assessor, Town Clerk, Water and Wastewater. Anyone who has difficulty with the MGO program system, or if they do not have use of a computer to enter their application, can schedule a time for assistance. While many are resistant to new ways of doing business, these online systems appear to be the way the world is progressing towards.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Cooke, C.B.O.
Inspector of Buildings

To the Honorable Selectboard and Citizens of Orange,

I want to first thank you for welcoming me to this wonderful community to serve in the Capacity of Building Commissioner. While conditional at this point, I am grateful to have been given space to obtain all necessary licenses, certifications, and necessary training in the position(s) for which I have been hired.

To date, I have been able to acquaint myself with many of the Municipal Officials, Department Heads, and members of this great town of Orange, and to the best of my knowledge, have received just the same. Thank you.

The reports on all Building Department undertakings have been carefully explained and presented here, and there is nothing that I wish to add to them at this time. Again, thank you for welcoming me to the Building

Department team. It is my goal to continue the great work that has been fulfilled to date by Mr. Cooke under the common mantra that “Building Codes Create Non-Events”.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Mitchell
Inspector of Buildings

Reporting Period January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024

Building Permits

527 permits
\$172,463.72 = Total fee for Building Permits
Collected = \$160,590.21
Waived = \$0

\$15,514,251.32 *Value of Construction for what was recorded* \$0 – Value (not provided by applicants)

Electrical Permits

318 Permits
\$80,375.01 = Total fees for Electric Permits
Collected = \$76,963.61
Waived = 0

Plumbing Permits

76 Permits
\$13,605.00 = Total fee for Plumbing Permits
Collected= \$12,360.00
Waived = \$0

\$0 – Value (not provided by applicants)

Gas Permit

52 Permits
\$6855.00 = Total fee for Gas Permits
Collected = \$6630.00
Waived = 0

\$0 – Value (not provided by applicants)

Total Department Fees Applied (pending, collected, and waived) = \$273,298.73

Total Department Revenues Collected = \$256,543.82

Total Department Revenues Waived = \$0

Value of Construction

- Residential \$ 12,426,821.01
- Commercial \$3,087,430.31

Number of Permits

Electric Commercial	59
Electric Residential	259
Gas Commercial	6
Gas Residential	46
Plumbing Commercial	6
Plumbing Residential	70
Building Commercial	60
Building Residential	394
110 Inspections	43
Zoning reports	10
Trench permits	5
New Single Family Dwelling units	15

Board of Health Annual Report 2024 – Town of Orange, MA

The Board of Health provides services to the Town of Orange including communicable and reportable disease surveillance, public health investigations, emergency dispensary site management, public health messaging, public health emergency response, tobacco control enforcement, substance abuse prevention programs, public health permitting, inspections, and nuisance complaint management.

The Board of Health staffs one full-time employee, the Health Agent, Ashley Gough, and a part-time administrator, Megan Truchinskas. The Board of Health is comprised of an elected three-member board: Chair Patricia Pierson, RN, Member Jane Peirce, RS and Member Josefa Scherer.

The Board of Health generally meets in person the first Tuesday of every month at 6PM.

North Quabbin Health Collaborative

In 2024, the Town of Orange as the lead Town, and the Towns of New Salem, Warwick, Wendell and Petersham, continued to work toward the sharing of public health services through a common health service program, known as the North Quabbin Health Collaborative in order to improve local public health capacity and access to trained and experienced public health professionals and to meet community and regional responsibilities.

The collaborative is contracted to receive \$450,000/year for FY25 – FY27. The goal of this grant is to improve capacity and achieve goals as outlined in the SAPHE 2.0 Bill’s Blueprint for Public Health Excellence. In FY24 positions were funded through the grant to serve the public health collaborative and its member towns including a shared health inspector, a shared public health nurse, as well as a shared services coordinator.

Forming the collaborative gave the Towns access to regionalization funding. In 2024 the collaborative continued to receive a \$30,000/year grant from the CDC ELC program which has funded our contact tracer position and community outreach, including allowing the collaborative to purchase Covid test kits for member towns, lice kits for local schools, and personal care products for the Orange food pantry run by the Franklin County Community Meals program.

Region 2 Emergency Preparedness Coalition:

The Massachusetts Region 2 Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition is comprised of 74 cities and towns throughout central Massachusetts and is responsible to facilitate and assist those communities with their Public Health emergency planning and preparedness. The Town of Orange belongs to the Region 2 PHEP Coalition. Drills are regularly conducted by the PHEP with key town employees to ensure local readiness.

Communicable Disease and the Covid-19 Pandemic

A crucial part of public health work is disease surveillance, investigation, and intervention. The Orange Board of Health monitors the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network (MAVEN) for the Town of Orange and completes follow-up investigations on communicable and other reportable diseases.

The following table is a breakdown of all MAVEN events for 2022, 2023 and 2024:

Disease	Status	2022	2023	2024
Calicivirus/Norovirus	CONFIRMED	0	1	3
Campylobacteriosis	PROBABLE	0	1	1
Giardiasis	CONFIRMED	0	1	0
Giardiasis	PROBABLE	0	2	1
Group B streptococcus	CONFIRMED	0	2	0
Haemophilus influenzae	CONFIRMED	1	1	0
Hepatitis C	CONFIRMED	5	2	2
Hepatitis C	PROBABLE	5	0	0
Hepatitis C	REVOKED	2	3	4
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	SUSPECT	0	3	0
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	REVOKED	0	1	0
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	CONFIRMED	1	0	1
Human Granulocytic Anaplasmosis	PROBABLE	0	0	1
Influenza	CONFIRMED	15	13	84
Influenza	SUSPECT	78	20	49
Legionellosis	CONFIRMED	0	0	1
Legionellosis	REVOKED	1	0	0
Lyme Disease	PROBABLE	3	11	16
Lyme Disease	SUSPECT	4	11	5
Mumps	REVOKED	4	2	1
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	CONFIRMED	1029	130	94
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	PROBABLE	170	25	15
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	REVOKED	6	0	0
Novel Coronavirus (SARS, MERS, etc)	SUSPECT	14	2	4
Salmonellosis	CONFIRMED	1	3	1
Salmonellosis	PROBABLE	1	0	0
Shiga toxin producing organism	CONFIRMED	0	0	1
Shiga toxin producing organism	REVOKED	0	1	1
Shiga toxin producing organism	SUSPECT	1	0	0
Streptococcus pneumoniae	CONFIRMED	2	2	1
Tuberculosis	CONFIRMED	4	3	4
Tuberculosis	SUSPECT	0	0	1
Varicella	SUSPECT	1	0	1

Overall, the most prevalent reportable disease of 2024 was still the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 [SARS-CoV-2] aka the “coronavirus” or “Covid-19”, though reported cases decreased significantly. This is partly due to the state no longer requiring contact tracing and the pandemic officially ending as of 5/11/23. Confirmed cases of influenza significantly increased in 2024.

Tobacco Control – 2024 Inspections

The Orange Board of Health permits 8 retail establishments to sell tobacco products to persons that are 21 years and older. The Board of Health has tobacco control regulations protecting people in the workplace and public places as well as regulations for retail establishments in order to reduce the selling of tobacco to youth. In 2024, the Board of Health voted in updated regulations with the most

current protections for the community. A copy of these regulations can be found on the Board of Health website. Tobacco law enforcement in Orange is managed by Joan Hamlett, the director of the Central Massachusetts Boards of Health Tobacco Control Alliance. Below is a breakdown of the work and inspections performed by the Tobacco Control Alliance for 2024:

Youth Access:

Number of Store Inspections	10
Number of Violations	0
Number of fine issued	0

Retail Education/Restricted Flavored Product Checks:

Number of Store Inspections	21
Number of Violations	4
Number of Warnings	3
Number of Local (\$100-\$300)	1
Number of State Fines (\$1000-\$5000)	0

Smoke-Free Workplace Law or Secondhand smoke Inspections:

Number of complaints requiring Inspections:	0
Number of Violations:	0

Pricing Survey

Number of Inspections:	8
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Sharps Disposal and Container Exchange Program

The Orange Board of Health Department is a drop-off site to dispose of sharps, supplying sharps containers at no cost to residents to bring back when full. Exchange is available by appointment. This program is open to the residents of Orange and Franklin County member towns of the Solid Waste Management District. All sharps brought in must be in a sealed and secured container.

Substance Abuse Prevention

Opioid Abatement Settlement Funds:

In 2024, the Town of Orange received \$70,692 in opioid abatement settlement funds. Added to the \$77,263 received in 2023, this brings the total so far to \$147,955 with additional payments expected to continue through 2037. During the 2024 annual Town Meeting, the Town voted to move these funds out of stabilization and into a special revenue fund so they could begin to be utilized.

The Orange Board of Health has been working with MAHB and Care Mass to gather community input on how the funds should be used and will be holding a listening session in 2025 so that those with lived experience can offer their voices to the discussion. In addition, the Town has applied to the Mosaic Municipal Grant Matching program and, if awarded, will receive up to \$50,000 in matching funds to support collaboration among community organizations working to fight the opioid crisis in the community.

NQCC North Quabbin Community Coalition and P.A.R.T. (Prevention, Addiction, Recovery, Treatment) Task Force:

Formed in 2011, the NQCC P.A.R.T. Task Force is a community-wide alliance with a diverse membership representing the entire region. The group has been involved in the Drug Take Back events to raise awareness and to reduce access to prescription drugs, sponsored the local National Night Out events in both Athol and Orange and has worked in advocating for tighter controls on over the counter products being marketed to youth.

Call 978-249-3703 or email info@nqcc.org for more information.

Animal Inspector 2024:

The animal inspector for the Town of Orange is the Health Agent, Ashley Gough. This role is appointed by MDAR annually. The animal inspector is concerned with the overall health and well-being of domestic pets and livestock in the Town of Orange. The animal inspector responds to reports of animal abuse, quarantines sick animals and conducts yearly barn inspections.

Rabies control is a leading concern and responsibility of the animal inspector. Depending on the nature of a bite and ability to collect a biting specimen, pets are placed under quarantine for a specified period. The following is rabies control data for 2024:

Domestic: 10 Day Quarantines: 14 (released) 45 Day Quarantines: 2 (released) 4 Month Quarantines: 1	Wild: Bat test results: 0 Feral Cats: 0 Foxes: 0
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For additional information on rabies quarantines please visit:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/agr/animal-health/rabies-control-program/>

The Animal Inspector conducts yearly barn inspections filling out a Barn Book issued by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of collecting information on where farm animals (chickens, goats, horses, alpacas, pigs, turkeys, donkeys etc.) are kept, noting the number and kind of each animal, if minimum standards of shelter available, observations of the health status of the animals, and any cases of potential animal abuse or neglect.

Public Health Inspections:

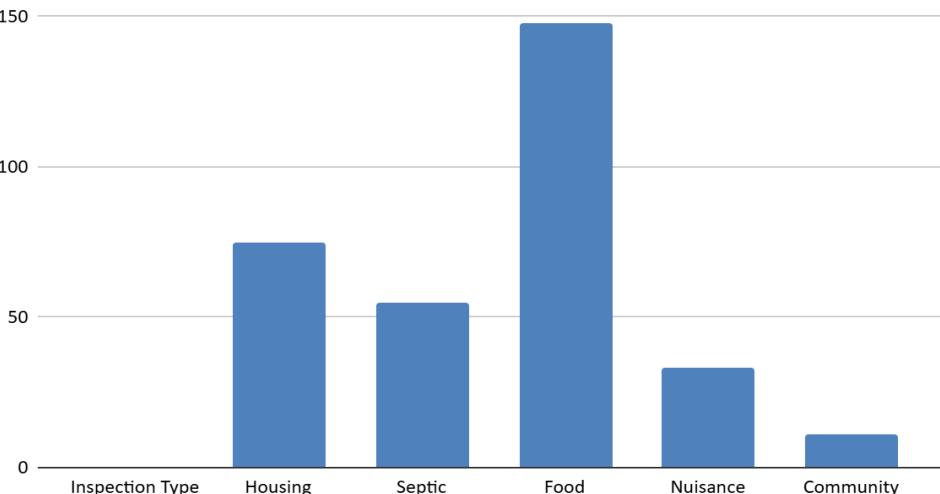
Local public health authorities are mandated to enforce and uphold adopted Federal, State and Local codes, laws, and regs as necessary to protect human health & welfare within their jurisdictions.

Summary of Inspections:

For calendar year 2024, there were 356 inspections logged for the Orange Board of Health.

- 161 Food Service Inspections
- 106 Housing Inspections
- 42 Nuisance/Animal Investigations
- 33 Septic and Soil Inspections
- 14 Campground, camp, tanning, swimming pool, or body art inspections

Sanitary Inspections 2024



This data includes routine, non-routine and re-inspections. 2024 inspections were significantly higher than 2023 output and logged above the average volume of inspections that occurred over the last 7 years which holds a mean of 295 inspections /year.

Additionally, the North Quabbin Health Collaborative performed an additional 86 inspections for Warwick, Wendell, New Salem, and Petersham including food, housing, and nuisance complaints.

Online Permitting – My Government Online

The Board of Health along with other town departments has transitioned to a third-party online permitting software called MGO. All health permits have been available online since May 2021, with 2022 being the first year strictly online. This change to online permitting has increased communication between town departments and has offered conveniences such as remotely accessing permits, reporting, inspections and associated documents.

Budget Overview:

The Board of Health operates with a revolving fund with an annual spending limit of \$30,000. Line-item expenditures are logged to ensure proper allocation of money within the department's operating budget. The revolving fund is primarily funded by revenue from Board of Health permit fees. Below is a breakdown of Board of Health permit types and volume for 2024:

Body Art	6	Tanning	1	Motel/Hotel/Rental	11
Food/Temp Food	74	Tobacco	8	Beaches/Pools	4
Funeral	2	Well Permits	9	Mobile Home Park	3
Haulers	18	Septic Construction	21	Installers	8
Soil Evaluation	34	Camp/Campground	7	Total	325

Revenue Breakdown Calendar Year 2024:

Detail Calendar Yr	Rev	y/y change	2-year change
Permit/Fees	\$30,600.00	2.8	2.7
Vaccine Reim	\$0		
Tobacco Fines	\$100		
Total Rev. 2024	\$ 30,700.00		

Report Submitted by Ashley Gough

Orange Board of Health Contacts

Ashley Gough – Board of Health, Health Agent
Office: 978-544-1107
Email: agough@townoforange.org

For more information, please visit us on the web at:
<https://www.townoforange.org/board-health>

Patricia Pierson – Board of Health, Chair
Jane Peirce – Board of Health, Member
Josefa Scherer – Board of Health, Member
Megan Truchinskas - Board of Health Clerk

TOWN OF ORANGE



Larry A. Delaney
Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation Superintendent
526 East River St.
Orange, MA 01364
Phone 978-544-1111
Email: publicworks@townoforange.org



The Cemetery Department continues to work tirelessly to maintain all the cemeteries in town to a high standard. The department staffing was reduced by one due to budgetary constraints. Cemetery employee Donovan Major was promoted to Foreman. Employees Chad Barnes and Travis Murphy obtained their Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Occupational Licensure Hoisting Engineer Licenses.

The Cemetery Department had the following call for burials this year.

Cremation Burials- 32

Traditional Burials- 16

Respectfully,

Larry A. Delaney
Superintendent
Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation
Tree Warden
Town of Orange
Orange, MA 01364
(978)544-1111
publicworks@townoforange.org



Collector's Office

Shana Smith, Town Collector

6 Prospect St.

Orange, MA 01364

978-544-1100 ext. 104

Collector@townoforange.org

Collector's Office Transaction Report for FY24

Real Estate (RE)						
Year	Recommitted	Committed	Paid	Abatements Exemptions Cert. Tax Title	Refunds Adjust Reversal	Outstanding 6/30/2024
1987	\$393.50					\$393.50
1989	\$383.80					\$383.80
1990	\$1,767.95					\$1,767.95
2001	\$492.53					\$492.53
2002	\$904.71					\$904.71
2003	\$1,178.37					\$1,178.37
2004	\$921.31					\$921.31
2005	\$775.87					\$775.87
2007	\$624.99					\$624.99
2008	\$608.28					\$608.28
2009	-\$11,823.77		-\$12,360.60	618.89		-\$82.06
2010	\$668.53			668.53		\$0.00
2011	\$996.46		-\$1,525.62	996.46		\$1,525.62
2012	\$1,063.17		-\$2,722.49	1063.17		\$2,722.49
2013	\$2,218.75		-\$2,814.36	1129.88		\$3,903.23
2014	\$3,501.88		-\$2,747.81	1490.37		\$4,759.32
2015	\$7,633.03		-\$1,300.15	\$4,295.24		\$4,637.94
2016	\$9,209.48		-\$1,363.31	\$5,863.74		\$4,709.05
2017	\$9,462.21		-\$3,086.84	\$7,373.18		\$5,175.87
2018	\$9,693.10		-\$3,190.08	\$7,534.20		\$5,348.98
2019	\$12,070.68		\$1,243.07	\$8,413.47		\$2,414.14
2020	\$9,062.58		\$1,840.48	\$9,931.21		-\$2,709.11
2021	\$89,623.65		\$26,210.43	\$43,515.54		\$19,897.68
2022	\$301,499.05		\$82,224.37	\$223,950.09	(\$10,956.31)	\$6,280.90
2023	\$519,968.93		\$317,836.03	\$258,833.19	(\$71,386.65)	\$14,686.36
2024		\$13,743,070.19	\$13,246,797.52	\$337,910.81	(\$98,897.34)	\$257,259.20
Totals	\$972,899.04	\$0.00	\$13,645,040.64	\$913,587.97	-\$82,342.96	\$81,321.72

**Collector's Office
Transaction Reports for FY24**

Motor Vehicle Excise (MVE)						
Year	Recommitted	Committed	Paid Rescinded	Abated Adjusted	Refunds Adjusted Reversals	Outstanding 6/30/2024
2019	\$7,447.00		\$917.30			\$6,529.70
2020	\$12,571.52		\$2,134.50		(\$225.15)	\$10,390.60
2021	\$11,559.51		\$3,112.35			\$8,447.16
2022	\$36,179.00		\$21,911.09	\$137.93	(\$48.68)	\$14,179.13
2023	\$201,360.47	\$80,577.64	\$230,834.30	\$8,633.07	(\$8,711.53)	\$51,182.27
2024		\$803,822.49	\$702,291.22	\$20,451.38	(\$8,453.10)	\$89,532.99
Total	\$269,117.50	\$80,577.64	\$961,200.76	\$29,222.38	\$17,438.46	\$180,261.85

Personal Property (PP)						
Year	Recommitted	Committed	Paid	Abated Exempted Adjusted	Refund Adjusted Reversal	Outstanding 6/30/2024
2015	\$1,493.57					\$1,493.57
2016	\$1,649.85					\$1,649.85
2017	\$1,257.38					\$1,257.38
2018	\$884.62					\$884.62
2019	\$985.79					\$985.79
2020	\$1,394.16		\$452.55			\$941.61
2021	\$45,317.27		\$3,973.00	\$31,286.04		\$10,058.23
2022	-\$698.40	\$59,390.98	\$2,700.77			\$55,991.81
2023	\$75,882.13		\$2,141.86			\$73,740.27
2024		\$715,019.57	\$646,399.24	\$11,583.30	-\$148.80	\$57,185.83
	\$128,166.37	\$774,410.55	\$655,667.42	\$42,869.34	-\$148.80	\$204,188.96

Departmental				
	Recommitted	Committed	Paid	Outstanding 6/30/2024
Cemetery		\$24,775.00	\$24,775.00	\$0.00
Trailer		\$28,740.00	\$28,740.00	\$0.00
Total	\$0.00	\$53,515.00	\$53,515.00	\$0.00

**Collector's Office
Transaction Report for FY24**

SE (Sewer Liens) BE (Septic Betterments) RB (Road Betterments) WL (Water Liens) QRB (Quabbin Road Betterments) LFS (Sewer Fees) LFW (Water Fees)						
Year	Tax	Recommitted	Committed	Paid	Tax Title	Outstanding 6/30/2024
2009	SE	-26.38				\$393.50
1989	\$383.80					\$383.80
1990	\$1,767.95					\$1,767.95
2001	\$492.53					\$492.53
2002	\$904.71					\$904.71
2003	\$1,178.37					\$1,178.37
2004	\$921.31					\$921.31
2005	\$775.87					\$775.87
2007	\$624.99					\$624.99
2008	\$608.28					\$608.28
2009	-\$11,823.77		-\$12,360.60	618.89		-\$82.06
2010	\$668.53			668.53		\$0.00
2011	\$996.46		-\$1,525.62	996.46		\$1,525.62
2012	\$1,063.17		-\$2,722.49	1063.17		\$2,722.49
2013	\$2,218.75		-\$2,814.36	1129.88		\$3,903.23
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2023	\$519,968.93		\$317,836.03	\$258,833.19	(\$71,386.65)	\$14,686.36
2024		\$13,743,070.19	\$13,246,797.52	\$337,910.81	(\$98,897.34)	\$257,259.20
Totals	\$972,899.04	\$0.00	\$13,645,040.64	\$913,587.97	-\$82,342.96	\$81,321.72



Town of Orange
Office of Community Development
6 Prospect Street
Orange, MA 01364



Community Development Office – Annual Report 2024

The primary goal of the Orange Community Development Department is to be proactive in shaping the future of Orange while preserving and enhancing the Town's character. This goal supports the strength and vitality of Orange's people, culture, and natural resources. It fosters the unique character of our residents and neighborhoods; it builds upon Orange residents' deep sense of commitment to their community.

In 2024, the primary focus of the Community Development Department was supporting the Planning Board in the procurement and preparation for the updated Long-Range Comprehensive Plan for Orange, a document which will provide a roadmap for Town officials for years to come. In addition to getting this vital project implemented, the Department oversaw ongoing grants and applied for additional grant funding, as detailed in the table below:

Name of Grant	Source of Grant	Amount of Grant	Scope	Contract End Date
Green Communities	MA Department of Energy	\$144,168	Battery energy storage installation at Fisher Hill School	9/30/25 (currently on track)
MVP Action Grant	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	\$390,290	Installation of solar panels on Fisher Hill School, outreach, outdoor classroom and walking path.	6/30/2025 (request for extension pending)
MassWorks (Water Tower) Grant	Executive Office of Economic Development	\$1,000,000	Design and construction of water tower for fire suppression and drinking water	6/30/2025 (Request for extension pending)
Municipal ADA Improvement Grant	MA Office of Disability	\$81,075	ADA Ramp Wheeler Memorial Library	6/30/2024 (grant close out in process)
Community Planning Grant	Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities	\$90,000	Create a Long-Range Comprehensive Plan (replaces the 2005 Master Plan)	6/30/2025 (currently on track)
MHC Planning and Survey Grant	Mass Historical Commission	\$15,000	Updated survey of Orange Downtown Historical buildings	12/27/2024 (close out in progress)

Rural and Small-Town Development Fund	Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities	\$275,000	Design for field work, design, and bid documents to replace the water main and repave the road and sidewalks on West Main to the OIC; uses a 100,000 Chapter 90 match	This grant was awarded 10/11/24 as part of the FY25 Round of the Community One Stop for Growth. The project is in the Pre-Contract Phase
Planning Assistance Grant	EOEEA	\$5,000 (with in kind match)	For updates to the Open Space and Recreation Plan	pending

The Department also supported the implementation of updated local GIS mapping layers and upgrades to be made available on the Town website, providing key resources for Town officials, residents, and potential developers.

Working with a group of other towns in Franklin County, the Department finalized a Digital Equity Plan for the region, giving the Town guidance on steps to take to improve access and education to digital resources, which are essential to allow residents the ability to apply for jobs, manage health-care needs, communicate with family, stay safe in emergencies, work remotely, pay bills online, and many other important day-to-day activities.

With the completion of the Housing Plan in 2023, the Department began research and outreach to begin to address the housing shortage and crucial need for additional housing in Orange. Housing is an essential piece of economic development, and with the current support and funding from the State, this is a timely issue that could have a huge impact. The Town received two earmarks in the 2023 State budget appropriation to help with this effort.

The Department created guidelines for existing and incoming cannabis companies to address changes at the State level to the regulations; these changes address inequities in the prior regulations and are designed to make opening and running a cannabis company more profitable and accessible to anyone who is interested. The guidelines were adopted by the Board of Selectmen, and cannabis companies with current Host Community Agreements in Orange were able to update their agreements to make the process more affordable and less burdensome while still protecting the Town.

The Department also provided staff and administrative support to several Town Committees and Boards, including the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, and Energy Committee.

Unfortunately, recent funding shortages have made forward progress difficult to achieve and the departure of the Community Development Director, Walker Powell, in October, has stalled or halted certain initiatives of the Department. Mikael Pyrtel, hired as the Economic Development Director, also left the Department, but he continues to work with the Town as an independent consultant through the EDIC. Matt Fortier, Town Administrator, has assumed the role of Interim Community Development Director until the position is filled.

We are very thankful to all of those who supported the department this year and wish our former staff members all the best in their future endeavors.



Town of Orange Conservation Commission

6 Prospect Street
Orange, MA 01364
978-544-1105 ext. 6



Marta Nover, *Chair*

Matthew Teto

Walker Powell, *Conservation Agent*

cons_com@townoforange.org

Orange Conservation Commission - 2024 Annual Report

The Conservation Commission enforces the Wetland Protection Act, Regulations, and Massachusetts Stormwater Standards to protect Orange's wetland and water resources. In 2024, we handled 10 applications for activities impacting wetlands, floodplains, rivers, streams, and habitats, including vernal pools, to safeguard water supplies, groundwater, flood control, pollution prevention, and wildlife habitat. The Commission also conducts site visits, reviews Forest Cutting Plans, and addresses public complaints about potential violations and impacts on sensitive areas. We meet via Zoom, facilitating evening meetings for applicants and consultants. Our online permitting system now fully supports homeowners and businesses with transparent processes.

The Conservation Commission helps Orange residents with permits and wetland regulations. During the week, Conservation Agent Walker Powell managed online permitting, site visits, and inquiries to protect natural resources and simplify compliance. After Powell departed in October, the Commission took over to ensure continued service.

This year's major project involved cleaning up the former mill complex fire site adjacent to the Millers River. The Commission coordinated with the town and contractor to protect the river during cleanup, using a simplified work authorization. The Commission monitored the work to ensure protective measures were effective.

Established in 1958, municipal Conservation Commissions are tasked with acquiring and managing open space within town boundaries. We collaborate with land management organizations to identify and preserve these lands, securing funding and support. Additionally, we manage conservation parcels acquired by the Town for the benefit of our citizens and the natural environment.

For additional information regarding the Conservation Commission and the Wetlands Protection Act, please visit the Town of Orange web site.

Finally, we want to thank Sarah Wells for her invaluable service to the Commission, Orange, and the Commonwealth. Sarah stepped down after many years of service on the Commission. Her expertise in resource protection, open space management, and dedication to administering the Regulations is greatly missed.



Town of Orange Council on Aging

6 Prospect Street (mail)
62 Cheney Street (Physical)
Orange, MA 01364
978-544-3481
978-544-1113 (Fax)

Annual Report 2024

The Orange Council on Aging works to promote and encourage new and existing services for Senior Citizens in our town. The Council on Aging is a coordinating agency joining other local groups including other COA's and our Area Agency on Aging to work together to support the elderly in our area.

The Orange Council on Aging would like to recognize and thank the Board of Directors for their time and dedication in support of our elder senior residents in 2024.

Henry Oertel, Chairman
Rosanne Amodeo, Board of Directors
Jeri Deyo, Board of Directors
Kerry Grimes, Board of Directors
Nancy Magill, Board of Directors
Joanne Wheeler, Board of Directors
Nancy Sawyer, Board of Directors

Programs that are offered at the Council on Aging, SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) which are MassHealth, HSN, Low Income Subsidy, Medicare Savings Program, SNAP Program, LIHEAP, USDA 504 grant applications, exercise group, foot clinic, AARP Tax program and many more. The Council on Aging screened approximately 2,500 calls this year.

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs manages a state grant in the amount of \$30,674. This grant pays for a Part-Time Admin, program costs, and funding for some special events.

We have met many new clients this year and look forward to meeting many more.

Thank You for the pleasure to serve our Elder Citizens in the town of Orange

TOWN OF ORANGE



Larry A. Delaney
Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation Superintendent
526 East River St.
Orange, MA 01364
Phone 978-544-1111
Email: publicworks@townoforange.org



2024 was a busy year for the Highway Department. The crew spent a large amount of time repairing potholes on almost every road in town. They also had to repair many dirt roads due to the multiple heavy rain events we had. We also assisted with the installation of the new trash compactor at the Transfer Station. We worked with the Water Department on waterline leak repairs and the Wastewater Department on plugged or broken sewer lines.

The Pinedale / Tully Rd bridge project was finished and opened to the public in the middle of August.

The North Main St. Reconstruction project went out to bid and a contractor was chosen in the fall. The start of the next phase of the project is scheduled to begin in March 2025 with completion of the project scheduled for April of 2029.

The initial survey work for the plans to replace the Fryeville Rd/Logan Rd is currently underway and the East Main St – Brookside Rd bridge over the railroad is in the planning stage. Both of these bridges are Mass Dot projects.

Respectfully,
Larry A. Delaney
Superintendent
Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation
Tree Warden
Town of Orange
Orange, MA 01364
(978)544-1111

ORANGE PUBLIC LIBRARIES – 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Between budget challenges, staffing changes, and the fresh pursuit of necessary building improvements, 2024 was a year marked by new beginnings for the Orange Public Libraries. While some events over the past year sorely tested the resilience of the institution as a whole, the library staff's dedication to delivering robust services and engaging programming and the Board of Library Trustees' commitment to their faithful stewardship remained constant.

Budget

Due to a shortfall in the Town budget, the Orange Public Libraries began the FY25 budget process with zero (0) dollars allocated to them by the Town Administrator and the Board of Selectmen. In response, the Libraries and their supporters mounted a campaign to restore the funds needed to meet the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners' Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR) with the aim of maintaining the Libraries' certification. After several meetings with members of the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and finally with the public at annual town meeting, funding in the amount of \$375,000.00 was secured. This met the Libraries' MAR, ensuring that the citizens of Orange would be able to borrow items from other libraries in our regional consortium CW MARS, take advantage of inter-library loan services, and retain access to electronic resources provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It also ensured that annual State aid monies would be disbursed to the Orange Public Libraries, thereby reducing the tax burden on the citizens of Orange.

Staff and Trustees

Library Director Jessica Magelaner resigned effective May 3rd after eight years in the role. Children's Librarian Jason Sullivan-Flynn was then appointed Acting Director while the Board of Library Trustees undertook a search for Ms. Magelaner's replacement. He was appointed permanent Director on May 14.

With the Children's Librarian position then vacant, a hiring committee was formed to search for Mr. Sullivan-Flynn's replacement. The position was soon offered to April Violette of Vernon, Connecticut. She is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University and will receive her MLIS degree from the University of Indiana – Indianapolis by June 30, 2025. She is bright, creative, and a natural children's librarian. We're fortunate to have her on our team!

Due to the aforementioned budget shortfall, in 2024 the Orange Public Libraries laid off one circulation assistant in the Adult Services Department.

Two members of the Board of Library Trustees, Robin Shtulman and Nate Johnson left the board this year. They have been replaced by Christine Mullen and Amy Borezo. Candace Cross, Joanne Woodcock, Priscilla Gaignard, and Jessica Morris continue to serve.

Building Improvements

Thanks to an Americans with Disabilities Act Grant secured by the Town of Orange's Community Development Department, construction of a handicapped access ramp at the Wheeler Memorial Library's basement door began in May. When finished, this ramp will allow patrons with mobility issues to enter the library's Children's and Community Rooms. Regrettably, given the absence of an elevator in the building those patrons will still not have access to the adult collection, the reading room, the adult patron computers, or the restroom. (Full handicapped access to library services remains

available at our Moore Leland branch library in North Orange however.) This is the first major renovation undertaken at the Wheeler Memorial Library since its construction in 1914.

Unfortunately, ramp construction hit a snag when the contractor hired to build the ramp incorrectly configured the drainage. This resulted in the library's lower level flooding during the spring's severe thunderstorms. The contractor was obliged to tear up the concrete he had poured and the Orange Public Libraries paid to have the drainage repaired out of its annual budget. Due to that flooding, the carpet in the Community Room and hallway was destroyed, and the vinyl floor tiles in the Children's Room began coming loose. Fortunately, no books, media, or computers were damaged. The flooring will be repaired in the spring using funds from an insurance claim filed by the Town of Orange. The ramp construction and floor restoration are expected to be completed by June 30, 2025.

Consequently, the Libraries' Children's Services Department moved its programs to the Moore Leland branch library. The dramatic increase in use of the facility promptly resulted in a backed-up toilet drain pipe. The flood that followed destroyed supplies and toys in the staff workroom, but any further damage was prevented thanks to Children's Librarian April Violette and Children's Assistant Kathryn Chaisson's quick thinking and prompt response. The restroom was then brought to full ADA compliance with the installation of a modern toilet.

There were also improvements made that were not necessitated by disastrous surprises. The most significant of these was the replacement of the bulb sockets, brackets, and globes on the two historic lamp posts at the main entrance of the Wheeler Memorial Library. Due to the age of the lamp posts and the need to stay true to the original design, a great deal of effort was made to source the new fixtures and to modify them to fit the posts. The lamp posts are now beautiful again and the front stairs are well lit and much safer to use at night.

Services and Policies

The Libraries' website, orangelib.org, has been redesigned and is now more usable on mobile devices. The public can now easily access information about our program offerings, library policies, electronic resources like Ancestry, our research databases, and our digital archive of regional newspapers. We added 40 digitized rolls of microfilm of the Athol Daily News to the archive this year.

The Board of Library Trustees and the Library Director have begun reviewing and revising the Libraries' policies, beginning with our Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy. This policy is designed to promote access to the Internet while protecting children from exposure to inappropriate material, as well as the public from unlawful access to and use or disclosure of personal information, and unauthorized access to legally restricted areas. By adopting this policy and by installing Cisco Umbrella on the computers in the Libraries' computer network in 2025 we are complying with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), enacted by Congress in 2000. This allows the Orange Public Libraries, with the assistance of our regional consortium CW MARS, to apply for the Federal Communication Commission's E-Rate Category 2 which will provide the Libraries with an 80% discount on certain pieces of network hardware. The full Acceptable Computer Use and Internet Safety Policy can be found on the POLICIES page on orangelib.org.

Programming

Though the 2024 Children's Summer Reading Program was scuttled by the flooding in the Wheeler Memorial Library's lower level, the Orange Public Libraries held many successful programs throughout the year. Children's programming included our online children's book club, now rebranded as Chapter Champions. The book club is designed for children ages 7 – 10 years of age and is supported by the Friends of the Orange Public Libraries. Our ever-popular LEGO club was a continued success at the Moore Leland branch library, and Children's Librarian April Violette ran many popular craft programs and story times, as well as a stuffed animal sleepover party. The Children's Services

Department also partnered with the Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week by offering a two firetruck touch-a-truck experience for families in the Wheeler Memorial Library's parking lot.

Regular adult programming in 2024 included Rusty Shaw's knitting and crocheting group, a Friday Night Film Series, a writing group, a weekly gentle exercise class administered by the Athol YMCA, and a seed exchange at Moore Leland Library. Special programs included "Immigrant Songs" with Daniel Gay, Strong Towns with Charles Marohn, and our 11th Annual Robert P. Collén Poetry Competition. This was an especially successful year for the competition; we had fifteen contestants who submitted a total of 27 poems. We were honored to have had Robert's widow, Gloria Collén, and his two daughters Victoria Cudmore and Janice Tkal present at the awards ceremony.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Board of Library Trustees,

Jason Sullivan-Flynn
Library Director

February 26, 2025

Select Board
Orange Town Hall
6 Prospect Street
Orange, MA 01364

Dear Select Board,

I am writing to provide you with an annual report on activity in Orange's Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund (HRRLF) account during the period **January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.**

The terms of HRA's agreement with the Town of Orange establishes the process for handling proceeds repaid from Community Development Block Grant housing rehabilitation loans.

The following chart provides a summary of **THE FINANCIAL ACTIVITY** during this period:

A	Beginning Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2023	\$1.95
B	Deposits – loan repayment and interest	\$56,152.47
C	Withdrawals – loan funds expended	\$28,500.00
	If applicable, funds returned to Town	\$.00
D	Withdrawals – fees paid (24%, 2% HRA, 2% DHCD)	\$1,123.05
E	Ending Balance of funds in account as of December 31, 2024 (* <i>These funds will be added to a current grant in order to serve income-qualified homeowners with emergency repairs</i>)	\$26,531.37

This next chart provides information on **THE PROJECTS** completed or in progress during this period:

F	Number of new loans closed from the HRRLF (1/1/24 – 12/31/24)	1
G	Total amount of new loan funds committed	\$28,500.00

HRA administers the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund for the town on a fee-for-service basis. HRA charges two types of fees: a program administration fee at the time that loans are initiated through the Revolving Loan Fund Account, and a loan servicing fee deducted at the time that loans are repaid. The fee structure, per the signed contract dated 1/23/2013, provides for a 24% program administration fee and a 2% loan servicing fee. The Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development also requires the town to pay a 2% fee on funds deposited and retained in the revolving loan fund during the preceding calendar year. The following chart provides a summary of fees paid between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024.

I	HRA program administration fees (24% of funds loaned)	\$.00
K	HRA loan servicing fees (2% for subordinations, re-financing, discharges)	\$1,123.05
L	DHCD program fees (2% for fees received during the period)	\$.00
M	Total fees	\$1,123.05

As of December 31, 2024, the balance of all outstanding housing rehabilitation mortgages in the Town of Orange was \$3,856,185.46 and there is/are WAITLIST of 6 household(s) in Town for loans.

HRA appreciates the opportunity to assist income-qualified residents of Orange requesting emergency assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Fund program.

Regards,



Sharon L. Pleasant
Community Development Program Manager
Matthew Fortier, Town Administrator

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
QPR #11 – 2021 – Orange – 00934
Narrative Description 09.30.24

Management/Administrative Issues: None to report.

1. Project Status/Accomplishments:

4C HOUSING REHAB: The goal of this grant activity is to complete housing rehab work on **7 units** in the town of Orange and seven units are complete. Program Income in the amount of \$39,686.73 was added to the grant funds in the amount of \$280,000.00 for a combined total of \$319,686.73 expensed on Housing Rehabilitation Projects.

LEAD PAINT REPORTING:

* Applicable Lead Paint Requirement:

a.	Housing Constructed before 1978	1
b.	Exempt: Housing Constructed 1978 or later	3
c.	Otherwise exempt	3
d.	Exempt: Hard costs <= \$5,000	0
	TOTAL	7

* Lead Hazard Remediation Actions:

Lead Safe Work Practices (24 CFR 35.930(b)) (Hard Costs <= \$5,000)	
Interim Controls or Standard Practices (24CFR 35.930 ©) (Hard costs \$5,000 - \$25,000)	
Abatement (24CFR 35.930 (d)) (Hard Costs > \$25,000)	1
(must equal sum in “a.” above)	
TOTAL	1

PERFORMANCE MEASURES – ACTIVITY 4C:

* Housing Rehabilitation Units

Units occupied by elderly	7
Units moved from substandard to standard	7

Units made accessible	3
Units qualified as EnergyStar	2
# brought into compliance with lead safety rules	1

7 PLANNING ACTIVITY: BUTTERFIELD SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY: The project concluded in January of 2024. The town will use the study for consideration of future funding opportunities.

8B SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES: The town of Orange concluded their contracts with the 5 social service agencies.

COUNCIL ON AGING: Elder Transportation Van: The COA van delivery was delayed by the manufacturer once again and was finally delivered to the Orange COA the first week of October, 2024.

LIFEPATH, Inc.: Orange Home Sharing Program: 14 residents (13 LMI) residents received benefit from this program that helped create matches between older adults and others willing to share their homes. The activity concluded 03/31/23.

LITERACY PROJECT: Orange College and Career Readiness Program: 29 LMI residents were provided with support, skills, and instruction in adult basic education classes so they could pass the high school equivalency test, gain skills to go to college, vocational training, and work toward economic security and self-sufficiency. The activity concluded 03/31/23.

QUABBIN MEDIATION: Orange Community Mediation & Training Program: Mediation services were offered to stabilize families and a program was operated to train peer mediators. 185 LMI residents received the benefit of this activity, which concluded 03/31/23.

SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY: Local Food, Family, Health, and Self-Sufficiency Program: This program promoted economic security through financial literacy and provided self-sufficiency and wellness skills for 103 LMI residents. The activity concluded 03/31/23.

4. PROGRAM INCOME: None to report.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT QPR #2 – 2024 – Orange – 01005 ~ Narrative Description 12.31.24

Management/Administrative Issues: None to report.

1. Project Status/Accomplishments:

4C HOUSING REHAB(\$280,000): The goal of this grant activity is to complete housing rehab work on 4 units in the town of Orange. Lead Paint Inspectors have been contracted after an RFQ process, applicants are being reviewed for program eligibility, and lead inspections will be completed prior to HR inspections. There are sufficient waitlist applications and applications in process to meet the project goal.

6I ARCHITECTURAL BARRIER REMOVAL – PEDESTRIAN CHIRPERS (\$23,025): The project will furnish and install pedestrian chirper boxes at 3 intersections in the Town of Orange. HRA is working with the Town of Orange on the procurement process, with construction expected to be done in the Spring.

7 PLANNING/ SLUM AND BLIGHT INVENTORY STUDY (\$79,600): The Town of Orange signed contracts with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FCRCOG) to complete the Slum and Blight Inventory Study and a start up meeting was held with representatives from HRA, FCRCOG, and the Town of Orange.

8B SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES (\$100,000): Contracts have been signed between the Town of Orange and individual agencies and a startup meeting was held with social service agencies to review

grant reporting procedures. The first quarter of program activity has concluded, and quarterly reports have been submitted by the agencies for review by HRA and the Town of Orange.

LIFEPATH, Inc.: Orange Home Delivered Meals Program

Well being check ins and home delivered meals were presented to elderly residents.

LIFEPATH, Inc.: Orange Elder Self-Sufficiency Program

Program funds support four program activities for elder residents: SHINE, Benefits Counseling, Money Management and Health Living. As this quarter represented Medicare open enrollment period, it was projected to be the busiest quarter for the SHINE program.

LITERACY PROJECT: Orange College and Career Readiness Program

Activities being monitored under this funding program include college and career counseling, HiSET preparation, employment counseling, and encouragement and support for participation in civic activities. 13 new beneficiaries participated in programs.

NORTH QUABBIN CITIZENS ADVOCACY: Advocacy Services for People with Disabilities

Matches were made and ongoing support is provided to these critical relationships. Outreach activities were conducted.

SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY: Local Food, Family, Health, and Self-Sufficiency Program

The program conducted outreach to their network of social service agencies and planned their food distribution schedule with their partners at Quabbin Harvest. 30 eligible families with 113 individuals. During distribution day, volunteers were on hand to discuss food shares received and explain possible recipes with food items.

2. PROGRAM INCOME: None received this quarter ending 12.31.24.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
QPR #6 – 2022.2023 – Orange – 00969 ~Narrative Description 12.31.24

Management/Administrative Issues: None to report.

1. Project Status/Accomplishments:

- **4C HOUSING REHAB:** The goal of this grant activity is to complete housing rehab work on **7 units** in the town of Orange. However, because two of the projects under contract required Single Case Waivers in order for all health and safety code violations and lead paint remediation, it is anticipated that fewer units will be completed with program funds. 95% of all funds are committed to projects. Four units are under contract; three of these units are complete and one is currently under construction and is estimated to be complete by 03/31/25. Uncommitted funds (\$15,142.07) are being held as contingency for the project under construction, however, one additional unit is also being reviewed and inspected for potential work if contingency funds are not used for the current project.

TOWN OF ORANGE	
Units Complete	3
Units under Construction	1
Units in scoping and bidding	1
TOTALS	5
TOTAL HR BUDGET	\$350,000
Funds Committed	\$334,857.93
Remaining to Commit	\$15,142.07

LEAD PAINT REPORTING:

- * Applicable Lead Paint Requirement:

a.	Housing Constructed before 1978	2
b.	Exempt: Housing Constructed 1978 or later	0
c.	Otherwise exempt	2
d.	Exempt: Hard costs <= \$5,000	

	TOTAL	4
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* Lead Hazard Remediation Actions:

Lead Safe Work Practices (24 CFR 35.930(b)) (Hard Costs <= \$5,000)	0
Interim Controls or Standard Practices (24CFR 35.930 ©) (Hard costs \$5,000 - \$25,000)	0
Abatement (24CFR 35.930 (d)) (Hard Costs > \$25,000)	2
(must equal sum in "a." above)	2
TOTAL	

PERFORMANCE MEASURES – ACTIVITY 4C:

* Housing Rehabilitation Units

Units occupied by elderly	2
Units moved from substandard to standard	4
Units made accessible	1
Units qualified as EnergyStar	2
# brought into compliance with lead safety rules	2

8B SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES: The agencies concluded their program activity for the program year FY22.23, ending 09/30/24.

LIFE PATH, Inc.: Orange Home Delivered Meals Program

LIFE PATH, Inc.: Orange Elder Self-Sufficiency Program

LITERACY PROJECT: Orange College and Career Readiness Program

NORTH QUABBIN CITIZENS ADVOCACY: Advocacy Program for Adults with Disabilities

SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY: Local Food, Family, Health, and Self-Sufficiency Program

4. PROGRAM INCOME: None received this quarter ending 12.31.24



ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Fire-Rescue-EMS

18 Water Street, Orange, MA 01364 – (978) 544-3145

Chief James R. Young Jr.

jyoung@townoforange.org



Fire-Rescue-EMS and Emergency Management Annual Report for 2024

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen and Citizens of the Town of Orange:

I hereby submit this annual report of the Fire-Rescue-EMS and Emergency Management Departments for calendar year 2024.

2024 was both a challenging and productive year for the departments. A need for administrative support and additional staffing still exists with the ever-increasing duties of operating the Fire, Emergency Medical Services, and Emergency Management functions within the organization. Aging apparatus, equipment, and facilities, along with limited staffing, continue to hamper the efforts of the departments to provide the best possible quality of service to the citizens we serve.

The Orange Fire Department Headquarters, located at 18 Water Street, was constructed in 1936 and designed for much smaller emergency apparatus. The current building is in disrepair, is not outfitted with appropriate accommodations for staff, and no longer meets the needs of our modern organization. The Water Street station should be extensively renovated, or a new Headquarters/Public Safety Complex constructed on another site. Funding requests for a new Public Safety Complex have been included in the Fire Department's five-year Capital Improvement Plan. A full-scale feasibility study exploring all options for either renovating an existing structure or constructing a new facility was completed during 2024. The study concluded that constructing a new public safety complex combining fire, EMS, emergency management, and law enforcement functions into a single facility is the most viable option. Conceptual design options were provided for locating such a facility on town-owned property in front of the Orange Municipal Airport. Constructing a new facility meeting the needs of our organization focusing on the safety and wellness of our employees is the top priority as we move into calendar year 2025.

The Department experienced some staffing changes and accomplishments during 2024. During the month of July, Firefighter/EMT Ryan Hendrickson graduated from the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Call/Volunteer Recruit Training Program, class S106. Shortly after during the month of September, FF/EMT Hendrickson was promoted to a full-time member assigned to Group 1. We wish Ryan a long, happy, healthy and safe career with the Orange Fire Department.

Also during September, Timothy Matthews was appointed as Acting Captain assigned to Group 1. As a Shift Captain, he is responsible for supervising all members of his assigned shift, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the shift, and serving as the Incident Commander in the absence of a Chief Officer. Congratulations to Acting Captain Matthews and we wish you the best moving forward in your expanded role within our organization.

On November 18, four of our members were honored at the annual Firefighter of the Year Awards hosted in the city of Worcester. Lieutenant/EMT Jason Rushford, Lieutenant Phillip Dupell, and Firefighter/Paramedic Nino Rodriguez received citations from Governor Healey for meritorious conduct relating to the rescue of a civilian during a residential structure fire in the Town of Orange on December 13, 2023. Furthermore, Acting Captain/Paramedic Timothy Matthews was awarded the Medal of Valor for his actions during this incident. Congratulations to all of these members for receiving this well-deserved recognition of your selfless and heroic actions in the performance of your duties.

Three members of our department began furthering their education and ability to serve by enrolling in Paramedic programs during the month of September. Firefighter/EMT-A John Smith, Firefighter/EMT Joseph Larson and Probationary Firefighter/EMT Ryan Hendrickson are attending the program at Mount Wachusett Community College. We anticipate these members will become certified Paramedics during the 2025 calendar year.

The month of November saw the resignation of on-call Firefighter Landon Guilmette following nearly eighteen months of service. We thank Mr. Guilmette for his service and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

In July, Probationary Firefighters Marcos Ramos-Rosario and Andrew Esposito joined the on-call ranks. Additionally, Firefighter/EMT Todd Bowbridge joined the Department as a Probationary Paid On-Call member during November. We welcome Mr. Ramos-Rosario, Esposito, and Bowbridge wishing them all long, safe, and happy careers with our department. Recruitment and retention of Paid On-Call Firefighters remains a challenging endeavor. The demanding training schedule coupled with the amount of time necessary for response to emergencies contributes to the difficulty in attracting new members willing to join the on-call staff. There are currently 17 Paid On-Call Firefighters employed by the Orange Fire-Rescue- EMS Agency, 21 are needed to operate efficiently. Hiring to fill some of these vacancies will take place during 2025. Anyone seeking information about joining the department as a Paid On-Call Firefighter can visit the Water Street station and speak with the on-duty staff or obtain an application.

The Orange Fire-Rescue-EMS Agency remains one of busiest in Franklin County in regards to the total number of incidents responded to annually. The department responded to a total of 2,506 calls for service in 2024 divided into the following categories:

Building Fires-24
Vehicle Fires-7
Brush/Vegetation Fires-13
Service Call-428
False Alarm-110
Fires (Other)-7
Other-160

Emergency Medical/Rescue-1419
Overpressure/Rupture/Explosion-2
Motor Vehicle Accidents-114
Hazardous Materials/Condition-20
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster-5
Special Incident Type-197

This compares with 2,382 calls in the year 2023 and 2,569 calls in the year 2022. Of the total calls for service in 2024, many occurred simultaneously with another response. These situations continue to be challenging for the department as limited amounts of staffing can typically handle only one or two responses at a time. Overlapping calls may require requests for mutual aid resulting in a delayed response by out-of-town agencies. Due to the activity of the department, at times both fire stations are unstaffed. The three new positions created as a result of the most recent SAFER Grant have reduced mutual aid requests and the amount of time the stations are unstaffed but will not completely eliminate those circumstances. The need for additional staffing still exists and is considered during each fiscal year budget preparation. If you call the station and do not get an answer, all personnel are committed to department activities or an emergency response. Please use 911 to report any emergencies as these calls are answered by a regional dispatch center located in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts that is staffed at all times. The Orange Fire Department is equipped with a voicemail service for non-emergency calls. Messages are checked regularly, and personnel will return your call.

The department continues to operate apparatus that are in need of replacement. The following list of department vehicles and apparatus includes the condition of the vehicle and the manner in which it was procured if other than purchased by the Town:

Station 1

Ladder 1-2007 KME 100-foot Aerial-500 gallons water-2000 gpm (gallons per minute) pump- very good condition, Federal grant (\$600,000.00), no grant match provided by the Town of Orange (funds for grant match and building to house the truck raised through private donations)

Engine 2-2019 Pierce Enforcer PUC Rescue Pumper-750 gallons water-1500 gpm pump-excellent condition, Federal grant (\$500,000.00), 5% required Town match as well as additional \$50,000 Town funds

Engine 3-1988 Pierce Lance Pumper-750 gallons water-1250 gpm pump-poor condition (purchased used from the City of Greenfield in 2015 to replace a 1980 pumper permanently removed from service)

Ambulance 1-2020 Ford F550/Road Rescue-very good condition (purchased with funds from ambulance receipts for appropriation account)

Ambulance 2-2016 Dodge 5500/Lifeline-fair condition, (purchased with funds from ambulance receipts for appropriation account)

Squad 7-2017 Ford F-350-good condition

Car 1-2019 Ford Expedition command vehicle-very good condition

Brush 8-2020 Ford F-550/CET-300 gallons water-300 gpm pump-excellent condition, Federal grant (\$150,000.00), 5% required Town match

Breathing Air Compressor-2019 Bauer breathing air compressor/trailer-excellent condition, federal grant (\$90,000.00) with 5% Town match

Mass Decontamination Trailer-good condition-regional trailer owned by the Commonwealth

Boat 1-Achilles inflatable boat with 30 horsepower Tohatsu outboard motor-excellent condition

UTV-2020 Kubota diesel-75 gallons water-5 gallons Class A foam-75 gpm pump, stokes basket patient transport capability, snow tracks-excellent condition

Fire Alarm-1997 Ford F-450 with telescoping bucket, MA State grant (\$20,000) with no town match-fair condition

Station 2

Engine 1-2000 Pierce Saber Pumper-750 gallons water-1500 gpm pump-good condition (purchased used from Holliston, MA Fire Department during 2020 with funds from insurance claim replacing 2001 pumper damaged beyond repair in an accident)

Tender 4-2010 V-Tech Vacuum Tank-3000 gallons water-no pump-Federal grant (\$200,000.00) with 5% Town match-very good condition

Class B Foam Trailer-regional trailer owned by the Western Massachusetts Fire Chief's Association-out of service due to storage tank contamination with PFAS foam concentrate, awaiting funding source for decontamination or replacement

The Fire Department continues to seek alternative sources of funding in an effort to ease the financial burden on the taxpayers. A highly competitive Federal Grant Application has been submitted to replace Engine 3 (1988 Pierce Lance Pumper), currently part of the Fire Department's five-year Capital Plan. Additionally, the Department received the following alternative sources of funding during 2024:

- \$2,700 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (State Grant) matched dollar for dollar by annual subscription fee to CodeRed emergency notification system (used to purchase a new tablet-style computer for inspectional services, incident command tools and replenish our supply of disposable batteries)
- \$15,500 MA State Fire Equipment Grant (no Town match required). Funding used for electric vehicle rescue and fire suppression equipment and ballistic helmets and vests for hostile threat events
- \$6,898.91 Student/Senior Awareness of Fire Safety Education Grant (State Grant with no Town match). Funding used for fire safety educational materials and wages for personnel participating in the educational programs

The Orange Fire-Rescue-EMS Agency strives to recover as much revenue as possible in an effort to offset the Department's monetary impact to the Town's overall operating budget. During calendar year 2024, the following amounts of revenue were collected recovering 61.18% of the Fire, Ambulance, and Emergency Management Department's total operating budget:

• Insurance reimbursements for ambulance transports	\$705,343.50
• Medicaid Reimbursement Program	\$83,952.00
• Assessments to surrounding Towns for ALS Ambulance Service	
\$256,869.51	
• Permits/Fees	\$17,445.00
• Other	\$6,977.60
• Total	\$1,070,587.61

In addition to recognizing the continued dedication of the Orange Fire Department membership, the department would also like to thank our employee's families who allow them to commit the many hours necessary for training and response to emergencies. Also, thank you to the Citizens of Orange, elected/appointed officials, boards/committees, etc. for your continued support of our Department in all that we do.

Respectfully submitted:

James R. Young Jr.-Chief of Department/Emergency Management Director

ORANGE HOUSING AUTHORITY

21 Morton Meadows
(978)249-4848

Athol, MA 01331-2123
fax. (978)249-9604

ORANGE HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL REPORT 7/1/23 – 6/30/24

To the Honorable Board of Selectmen:

The Orange Housing Authority provides affordable housing to low and moderate income families, as well as to the elderly and disabled. Housing is available based on State Program Regulations. The Housing Authority is managed by the Athol Housing Authority.

The Authority owns 56 Elderly/Handicapped units under the Massachusetts Chapter 667 Housing Program as well as 8 Family units under the Massachusetts Chapter 705 Housing Program. Additionally, the Authority administers housing subsidies for 45 families under the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program.

As of January 5, 2015, the Orange Housing Authority (OHA) shares office space with the Athol Housing Authority (AHA). The combined staff is made up of the following:

Christi Martin, Executive Director/Secretary to the Board (AHA)
Pamela Caranfa, Program Administrator (AHA)
Connie Parmenter, MRVP Administrator (AHA)
Linda Lefebre, Clerk (OHA)
Ingrid Willard, Clerk (OHA)
Nicholas Tarara, Maintenance Supervisor (AHA)
Joseph Chiasson, Jr., Maintenance Staff (OHA)
Dean Whitney, Maintenance Staff (AHA)
Sunda Grubb, Application Processor (AHA & OHA)
Tammy Caissie, Program Assistant

The Authority is overseen by the Board of Commissioners, which meets on a monthly basis. The Board is made up of the following:

Rice Flanders, Chairperson/Governor's Appointee
Olinto Paoletti, Commissioner
Tracy Gaudet, Commissioner
David Blake, Commissioner, Tenant Member

The office of the Orange Housing Authority is located at 21 Morton Meadows and is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Phone 978-249-4848. Fax 978-249-9604.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christi Martin
Executive Director



TOWN OF ORANGE

6 Prospect Street, Orange, MA 01364
www.townoforange.org

Planning Board Annual Report 2024

Greetings from the Planning Board!

The board to date is composed of Casey Bashaw, Mercedes Clingerman, Kelli Gervais, John McHale, and Tom Sextone with our alternate Fred Heyes. We continue yearly assessment and revision of our processes to ensure we follow best practices and remain current. The Board would like to recognize and thank Todd Soucy for his service over the years. He was a thoughtful and respected member of the board, whose input was missed after his resignation in February. Luckily, his position was filled by Tom Sexton, one of the board's alternates, who provides excellent perspective to continue to round out the diversity in the Planning Board. If you are interested in serving as an alternate, please reach out to planning@townoforange.org to talk and learn what is required. Being an alternate is a great way to learn the responsibilities of the board and try out the fit. Currently, alternates support only the hearing process in the absence of a member, but there is legislation before the state to explore an expanded role for alternates to provide support, given the difficulties with finding citizens to serve that many communities face in filling state mandated board positions and the responsibilities of members.

We continue to have greater than average citizen participation with continued zoom meetings in 2024 per the Governors extension of the remote meeting policy effective until March of 2025. This has continued to allow those with disabilities or with transportation problems to participate, and developers continue to express that they are appreciative that they do not have to travel and have the option to attend remotely. We continued in 2024 to plan for hybrid meetings but have not had any citizens in 2024 reach out requesting to attend in person. All citizens have attended on zoom, and the few meetings we did host in person did not have anyone other than board members or municipal employees in attendance. We continue to invite citizens to participate in the Planning Board to have input into the development process of their town. We will continue to explore hybrid meetings and await the Governors final legislative action relevant to the matter.

We enjoyed continued support from our Community Development Director Walker Powell who was in her fourth year with the town in 2024. She and the Planning Board chair worked closely as Community Development staff in the office daily. The work of Mikael Prytel Economic Development Director was also appreciated. In addition to the main responsibilities of her job, Walker was a tremendous help in research into various topics before the Planning Board both for permitting and zoning bylaw related concerns. Sadly, due to budget cuts after the June 2024 Annual Town meeting, Mikael Prytel left the department as of July 1, 2024 and was hired by the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (OEDIC). In October, Walker departed the Town of Orange as well. She has been very sorely missed for both her expertise and research skills but also the daily support of clerical functions for the Planning Board to ensure the large volume of work before the Board could be completed.

We continue to remain indebted to our Independent Engineer Peer Reviewers Chris Stoddard of Stoddard Engineering and Ed Berry of Berry Engineering, who we continue to utilize for reviews of projects, as allowed by our bylaws, to ensure that the Town's interests are protected and that the professional input necessary for the board to make decisions is provided to us.

The Planning/Community Development Office continues its collaboration with other town departments to provide services to the Town that resemble a Planning Department during this time of transition. We continue to offer to developers the optional customer service tool of a department head round table for them to one stop shop for input for their projects. When there are no projects before us the meeting is used by Community Development and Planning office to plan and promote conversation across departments for topics related to land use and state mandated programs that require cross pollination of efforts.

In 2024 the Planning Board accomplished the following:

- Permits Before the Board in 2024- 18 total applications submitted

- 10 ANR (Approval Not Required) Application-all granted
- 7-Special Permit/Site Plan Applications and 1-Modification of a special permit issued earlier in the year.
 - The breakdown of the applications by industry type are:
Storage unit companies- 1 granted; which was later the 1-modified per applicant request.
Modification was granted. 1-applied and in process (3 total).
Auto Dealerships-3- granted.
Propane Gas Storage-1 applied and in process.
Change of Use from Laundromat to Cannabis Retail -1- applied and in process
- Protocols for applications remain updated yearly to ensure efficiency and that we keep up with current best practices and regional standards.
- Our Construction Oversight Protocol continues to allow support to our Building Commissioner during development by ensuring site work and storm water management is completed as permitted.
- Planning Board Financials-We continue with yearly review the fee structure and ensure fees are current and reflect the best practices and the economy. We continue to be committed to ensuring the Planning Board is accommodating new trends in industry and development. The Planning Board continues to be able to cover their own costs of functioning. These costs include covering all our own legal fees associated with regular functioning/responsibilities of a Planning Board and the legal fees associated with updating zoning regulations for the Town amongst other financial costs. The development of Orange has slowed so revenue for the Planning Board has dried up this year. However, it is anticipated we will still be able to support ourselves for the time being.
- Education of Board Members- Citizens Planners Training Collaborative courses remain hybrid and available to Board members to take advantage of should they choose. These courses teach the legal requirements of being a Planning Board member and help support members in fulfilling their obligation in fulfilling the MGL and local laws associated with the Board's functions.
- Zoning Bylaw Updates – The Short Term Housing Rental Zoning Bylaw was passed as was the Demolition bylaw. However, the work and action items recommended by the consultant in the Zoning Bylaw grant from 2023 to update our Zoning Bylaws were not able to be achieved in 2024. We continue to discuss how we can make these changes to ensure economic development in Orange. One of the largest hurdles is education of both our citizenry and ourselves, as to how these changes could positively help with development, as well as having the bandwidth on the board to complete the work associated with zoning bylaw changes. Trends in development continue to not be reflected in the zoning bylaws of our town, which adds to the difficulty of attracting developers and development. Developers look for clear guidelines and direction for their interests; and citizens desire the community to be shaped in accordance with the quality of life they wish to live. Clear and updated zoning also impacts our ability to qualify for grants and programs aimed at improving infrastructure, department programming and development. The Long Range Comprehensive Plan, discussed later in this document should help with this momentum of encouraging support for needed changes.
- ADU Legislation -This zoning legislation passed at the state level and will be implemented February 2, 2025. It is designed to help solve the housing crisis in the state and nationally. The Planning Board monitored and discussed this throughout the year as it related to the complexities of how complemented the housing plan and how it would impact Orange's housing stock. The Board expressed that they were not able to manage getting local ADU bylaws in place for the December 2024 STM. Research done by the chair and Walker resulted in feedback that Orange's make up would not likely see an initial impact to the town in the adoption of this legislation immediately, giving the board time to work on this for ATM in June of 2025. This sentiment was seconded by FRCOG Regional Planning Board information and updates received throughout this process. One of the goals of 2025 will be to prepare for the adoption of this at ATM in June 2025.
- The Housing Plan was adopted but work on action items in the plan has continued to be an ongoing discussion. With the loss of our Economic Development Director and Community Development Director this year, the lift has not been able to be shouldered by the Planning Board but we will continue to seek alternate solutions to our part in helping the town move forward on implementing the actions items.
- Long Range Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee- the grant was awarded to the Town, the RFP put out and the Consultant chosen. The subcommittee began its work with the consultant Resilience Planning and Development in September once the contract was signed by the Select Board. Work has been moving along well and grant deadlines are being met. By the end of December much of the Existing Conditions Chapter work was completed and the draft of this section anticipated for release and comment by Feb of 2025. The Community Outreach portion was also actively being planned by the subcommittee for the start of the push in 2025. The Planning Board was able to provide the match for

the grant after budget cuts depleted the Community Development Stabilization Fund, which was the original match source for the grant. LRCP is the updated language in the Planning world for what used to be called a Master Plan. The Planning Board per MGL Part I, Title VII, Chapter 41, Section 81D is responsible for developing and approving a master plan. The Planning Board anticipates that by the end of 2025 the plan will be ratified by the board per MGL.

- The work on the difficulties of our buildings stopped at the end of the year amid transitions in town staffing at many levels. It is hoped that once a planner is hired, the work will be resumed to address the need for interdepartmental support of projects such as the public safety complex, library complex, armory reuse study, Butterfield feasibility study, etc. that was begun in 2023 and continued through 2024 until October. The Planning Board continues to monitor this.

Goals for calendar year 2025

- To continue the work of processing permitting per our directives in the Bylaws.
- To resume work on the action items provided in the Zoning update recommendations from the grant in 2023 that could not be implemented in 2024.
- Adoption of the state ADU bylaws with work to ensure any allowable local edits are made and to have the work done in time for June 2025 ATM
- To continue supporting our LRCP subcommittee and the consultant to complete the grant deadlines and ratify the LRCP by December 2025 so that it can begin to be implemented. To also continue to review the document yearly so that it remains a living document and kept up to date.

If you have any topics you would like us to consider, please contact the Planning Board office at planning@townoforange.org. If it is not a process that falls to the Planning Board, we will be happy to connect you to the right place and see that your needs are met to the best of our abilities.

We welcome participation and attendance at meetings. To find ours or any board or committee in town, go to mytowngovernment.org to see when we meet and what the agenda is. You can sign up for email alerts there for our board or any other board or committee in town you are interested in. Dates depend on the agenda and needs being met. We do not meet from Thanksgiving to January 1 unless there is an emergency that requires the board to meet to fulfill legal obligations.

We continue to thank you for your support and remain proud to serve you for another year!!

Respectfully submitted,
Mercedes Clingerman, Chair
On behalf of the Board
Casey Bashaw, Kelli Gervais, John McHale, Tom Sexton



Town of Orange Department of Police



JAMES SULLIVAN
CHIEF

Orange Police Department – Annual Report 2024

On Behalf of the Orange Police Department, I hereby submit the annual report for the year 2024. This year came with some challenges that the police department worked hard to navigate. A very difficult budget season leading up to Fiscal Year 2025. Due to budget cuts, the long time, crucial position of Administrative Assistant had to be eliminated. The elimination of this position made our ability to service the towns' people an even greater challenge. The Administrative Aid was crucial in our ability to manage the workload of the Public Information Requests as well as getting residents the necessary paperwork for crash reporting and Firearms Licensing and numerous other tasks.

One of the more notable cases, a home invasion occurred in November of 2024. At 1:19AM a 911 call from a hysterical female reporting that her ex-boyfriend broke into her apartment and attacked her and her current boyfriend with a knife as they slept. The suspect had attacked them with a knife while riding in a vehicle earlier in the evening and fled. The suspect was already wanted for domestic violence charges earlier in the year. Our officers responded and immediately helped the injured. Their investigation was conducted professionally and swiftly. The suspect was arrested a couple of days later in the City of Greenfield. He is currently in the Franklin County House of Correction awaiting trial.

In November we had a new member join the Orange Police. K-9 "Zeus" a German Shepard arrived and began training to replace the retired K-9 "Orca". Officer Kyle Johnson is "Zeus's" handler. The two have worked very hard and as we rang in the new year, they are both now certified in tracking, article search, suspect apprehension and narcotics detection, to name a few.

Finally, I would like to thank the amazing group of officers here at the Orange Police Department. I continue to be impressed by their hard work and dedication to the Town of Orange. I would also like to thank our Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, Capitol Improvement Committee, and our Town Administrator for their continued support.

Respectfully,
James Sullivan
Chief of Police

The Following is a brief list of stats from 2024:

• Total Calls for Service	7727
• Accidents	198
• Arrests	129
• Summons	258
• Protective Custodies	6
• Alarm Responses	295
• Civil Citations	230
• Warning Citations	404

Narcotic Detective 2024:

Our Detective worked with the DEA on an investigation that involved a wiretap and street level narcotics interdiction that eventually led to dismantling a high-level cocaine trafficking group based out of Puerto Rico. This group was responsible for trafficking multiple kilos of cocaine into the Springfield/Holyoke area that was then distributed throughout the commonwealth.

The Detective has also worked on several cases, specifically to Orange. One of which is an address of Perry Rd. that has been problematic for neighbors there for years. A search warrant was issued for that address and a total of seven people were charged for multiple narcotic violations.

Command Post Deployments:

March 2024 – Deployed for the department Easter Egg Hunt

April 2024 – Equipment deployed for traffic management at River Rat Race

October 29024 – Equipment deployed for Battle of the Badges Softball Game

Note The command post is a 2003 trailer. The age of the trailer and the Truck available to tow it is becoming prohibitive cost and reliability wise. The replacement of either unit would need a significant investment from the town.



TOWN OF ORANGE

Larry A. Delaney

Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation Superintendent
526 East River St.
Orange, MA 01364
Phone 978-544-1111

Email: publicworks@townoforange.org



2024 Calendar Year Report The Town of Orange Transfer station/Recycling Center

This year the Transfer Station's packer truck for the Municipal Solid Waste was retired and sold on Municipibid with the proceeds being returned to the General Fund. The truck was replaced with a modern freestanding compactor unit.

Employee Michael Moran was promoted to the position of Foreman.

Materials brought into the facility

Municipal Solid Waste	429 tons
Demolition Materials	145 tons
Recycling	192 tons
Permits	1222
Scrap Metal, Appliances	25 tons
Clothing	3 tons
Leaves, Brush	1100 cubic yards
Electronics, Freon Appliances	8 tons
Compostable Food waste	14 tons
Tires	349
Trash Bags Sold	47600

Please visit the town website at www.townoforange.com then click on the Recycling/Transfer Station for information about the facility, including

“What Do I Do With...?”

Respectfully,
Larry A. Delaney
Superintendent
Highway, Cemetery, Parks & Sanitation
Tree Warden
Town of Orange
Orange, MA 01364
(978)544-1111
publicworks@townoforange.org

TRUSTEES OF THE SOLDIER'S MEMORIALS ANNUAL REPORT – 2024

The Orange Trustees Of The Soldier's Memorials is an elected committee that is responsible for the upkeep of the various memorials in Orange dedicated to military veterans. Their financial activity is governed by donations from varied sources. Grants from the Massachusetts Historical Commission for different programs have also been utilized. Again, these grants have been the 50% matching type, where the Memorials Committee's portion has been funded by various donations. This year, again, continued support from the American Legion Post 172 is very much appreciated. In addition, donations from Graverobbers Restoration, Norm Sargent, are also appreciated. Support from the Orange Historical Commission is appreciated and considered essential to the Trustees' continued success with MHC grants. Also, this year, the Trustees were awarded a grant by the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board for the replacement of the flagpoles in Memorial Park and at South Cemetery. The original project had to be separated into two parts, one for next year, due to the drastic increase of costs and shipping, which will include the flagpoles for the remaining six Orange cemeteries. That portion of the project will be included with the application for the next round of grants' request. The application for the next round of grants was submitted in December.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the projected completion date for our current 2024 Grant, "Orange Flagpole Replacement", of "6 months after grant award" was not achieved. Major Town of Orange issues combined with supply interruptions have caused a severe delay in the ordering and shipment of the replacement flag poles. Currently, the projected ship date is mid-January 2025. As you can appreciate, Massachusetts' weather at this time of year does not lend itself to the outside work necessary for project completion. Many portions of the project were either completed or in progress. Our intent, and new "Target Date for Completion", is to have the entire project, including the final report, completed by Memorial Day, 2025.

The replacement of flags that need to be properly retired is also an on-going program of the Memorials Committee. With the help of Orange Boy Scouts, another project that had been completed was "Flag Retirement" boxes that were created and installed at the American Legion Post 172 and at South Cemetery Maintenance building. These containers are a depository for flags that need to be properly retired. This remains an on-going project. If residents have any questions, please contact any Committee member.

The Memorials Committee has four separate finance accounts that are monitored by the Town Accountant. The account balances as of 31 December 2024 are as follows:

Memorials Committee Gift Account: \$7,653.78
Memorials Committee Honor Roll Wall Account: \$16,441.00
Memorials Committee Peace Statue Account (Restricted): \$963.81
Memorials Committee Veterans Heritage Grant Account: 7923.50

The Orange Trustees Of The Soldier's Memorials Committee meets once a month, on the fourth Thursday, at 5:30PM. Due to various restrictions placed by the Board of Selectmen, meetings have been held at American Legion Post 172.

We are dedicated to maintaining the memories and history of the many men and women who have participated in the many military actions from Orange. Again, our funding is by donations only. Individuals who wish to participate may send their donations to 6 Prospect Street, Orange, MA 01364. The donations may be made to the Gift Account – and will be used for varied projects – or the Honor Roll Wall Account – and will be used just for that purpose.

Respectfully Submitted:
Orange Trustees Of The Soldier's Memorials
Bruce St. John
Michelle Simmington LeBlanc
Paul Lyman
Doug McIntosh
Doug Jillson

Town of Orange
Wastewater Treatment Facility
Annual Report 2024

Oscar L Rodriguez-Superintendent
Nathan LaCroix-Operator
Ryan Burns-Operator

Hours 6:30 A.M. -3:00 P.M.

To the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and Residents of Orange:

In early 2024, the facility had its influent pump system fail, since then it has been on an emergency bypass system and will remain until it is replaced. The department has secured a loan for a pump system installation and will begin construction in early 2025. This will include installing two more blowers for aeration approved in 2023 that was slated for 2024.

The 2022 project was completed on April 1, 2024. The facility now has new systems for screening removal, grit removal, updated sludge dewatering, and a backup generator to power the whole facility. They are currently offline due to the bypass.

Wastewater Foreman John Jasienowski retired on September 30, 2024, after 17 years of service. Ryan Burns was hired on October 15, 2024, as an Operator.

I would also like to encourage sewer users to help in reducing water flows and sewer clogs in the system. This can be achieved by redirecting sump pumps, roof leaders, floor drains, yard drains etc. out of the system and refraining from flushing wipes into the sewer system. These issues contribute to higher operating and maintenance costs that can be alleviated.

I thank the department staff for their support, dedication, and professionalism.

Annual Data:

Total Rainfall- 53.60 inches (Average 0.15 inches per day)

Total Wastewater Flow- 433.901 million gallons per day (Average 1.189 million Gallons per day)

Total sludge Disposed- 48.90 Tons of Dry Solids

Average BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand)- 90%

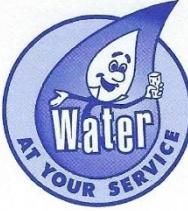
Average TSS (Total Suspended Solids)- 89%

Total Sodium Hypochlorite (Effluent Disinfection)- 1,980 Gallons

Total Emulsion Polymer (Sludge Thickening)- 343 Gallons

Total Sodium Aluminate (Phosphorus Removal)- 5,000 Gallons

Respectfully submitted,
Oscar L. Rodriguez



Orange Water Department

16 West Myrtle Street

Orange, Massachusetts 01364

Telephone: 978-544-1115 • Fax: 978-544-1122

watersuper@townoforange.org

Water
Commissioners
Michael Hume
Mercedes Clingerman
Leon Lefebvre

Superintendent
Kenneth R. Wysk

Regular Meetings
2nd Monday
4:00pm

ORANGE WATER DEPARTMENT – ANNUAL REPORT 2024

On behalf of the Orange Water Department, it is my pleasure to submit this Annual Report for CY2024. The Department has been in operation for 132 years and continues to provide safe, clean drinking water to many residences, businesses and institutions.

Drinking water is provided by 3 large wells located off of West River St. and Daniel Shays Hwy. (Route 202). From there, the water travels through two large storage tanks, 36± miles of distribution main and thousands of valves, meters and hydrants. Maintaining this system in working order and in compliance with applicable regulations is no small task. Our team of licensed operators, dedicated water commissioners, and patient billing clerk will continue to be as efficient as possible. We are very grateful to the public water users in Orange. Nearly all are extremely pleasant and easy to work with. In return, we do our best to be responsive to user needs and emergencies. Please call or preferably email us with water questions/concerns. Use our online permitting system for requests for services @ MyGovernmentOnline.org

In 2024, the Water Department was awarded two grants. The first one being a \$75k grant for permit work and design of the needed repair work on the Lake Mattawa South Dam spillway area. The second was a \$109k grant for creating an asset management plan construct that will assist the department with setting an ongoing 20 year capital improvement plan. This type of program is fast becoming an integral part of getting ahead of other entities when applying for grant funding within the state, so it should be beneficial for many years to come. Although these grants came to us this year, we were denied one for the development of a set of build ready plans for the design of the Well #1 satellite well station that we have been pursuing for a few years now. We are hopeful that our efforts for the next submission will be helped by the upcoming capital improvement plan that this current years grant will be creating.

The Water Department is solely funded by our customers, and we will continue to optimize and improve upon our physical, financial and technical operations as efficiently as possible. We have provided oversight and frequent, sometimes urgent, assistance for water-related items on construction projects. There have been coordinated efforts with other municipal departments, boards, associations, committees, and other local business entities to improve communication and work together towards common goals. We would be happy to discuss our operations with you at any time, including these projects and many that are not listed. Please feel free to attend a monthly meeting, typically held on the second Monday of each month, to learn more about our operation.

2024 Statistics (some numbers are approximate):

Total gallons of water pumped	171,514,400
Customer accounts served	1,884
Meter readings collected/processed	7,099
New water meters installed/retrofitted	15
Services/hydrants installed or renewed	12
Services/hydrants turned on & off by request	45
Frozen meters, valves or service lines	13
Leaks repaired in main or service lines	11
Backflow tests completed	214
Hydrant/main flushing events	356
Utility (excavation) mark-outs	32

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth R. Wysk
Water Superintendent

**FRANKLIN COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Residents of the Solid Waste District:

The Solid Waste District was formed in 1989 to help Franklin County towns manage all aspects of their solid waste – recyclables, organics, hazardous waste, wastewater treatment sludge, and trash. We continue to provide assistance to twenty-one member towns through administrative support, professional consultation, trainings, and educational outreach to residents and businesses.

A review of recycling tonnage for 2024 shows that it was almost identical to 2023 recycling tonnage. District residents recycled just under 2,500 tons of paper and containers through their town programs. The recyclables were processed at the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility and sold, primarily to domestic companies, to be recycled.

We held a May and October Clean Sweep bulky waste collection in 2024. Events were held at Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Erving Senior Center and Highway Garage, and Whately transfer station. Combined, the events served 578 households and collected over 58 tons of bulky waste, scrap metal, appliances, electronics, propane tanks, tires, and other items.

We held our annual household hazardous waste collection in September 2024 at Greenfield Community College and Orange transfer station. This event allows residents to properly dispose of toxic cleaners, automotive products, pesticides, and other toxic products. A total of 390 households participated in this event. Residents have access every year to other hazardous waste collection events in the Pioneer Valley.

We applied for and received grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection worth \$98,600 for District towns. This grant funding is a result of a town's successful waste management infrastructure.

If you have questions about District programs, call us at 413-772-2438 (MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 TTY/TDD), visit our website at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org or visit us at 117 Main St. in Greenfield.

Jan Ameen - *Executive Director*
Terry Narkewicz, Shelburne - *Vice-Chair*

Chris Boutwell, Montague - *Chair*
M.A. Swedlund, Deerfield - *Treasurer*



Franklin Regional Council of Governments Services to Orange in 2024

The FRCOG provides planning services, programming, and advocacy to all Franklin County municipalities. Our municipal service programs – Collective Purchasing, the Cooperative Public Health District, Cooperative Building, Plumbing, and Electrical Inspection, and Town Accounting – are available to any municipality. The Community Health Department gathers data and works to improve the factors that impact health in the region; the Planning Department assists with local planning and larger regional projects; and the Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Programs prepare and train first responders and local officials.

The following pages list services specific to Orange.

Climate Resilience, Land Use & Housing

- Provided data to the town's consultant to assist with the Comprehensive Plan update.
- As part of a 6-town Complete Neighborhoods "Greenfield Area" grant project, worked on a zoning and building permit analysis of Orange and other towns, to draft recommendations for increasing housing diversity.
- Met with the health agent to discuss potential funding sources to assist with improving housing conditions.
- Prepared a memo to towns summarizing the latest guidance from the state regarding the new Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) zoning changes to assist towns as they prepare their own bylaws.
- Held a second community roundtable for communities involved in the Regional Pollinator Plan for Franklin County, including Orange, to share stories and lessons learned about expanding, enhancing, and protecting pollinator habitat.
- Organized & facilitated quarterly meetings of the Franklin County Coalition of Energy Committees. Orange Energy Committee members attended at least one meeting.
- Organized and facilitated the Small-Town Housing Working Group, which met 5 times in 2024. An Orange representative attended at least one meeting, along with reps from 16 other Franklin County towns, 2 other municipalities, and several organizations.
- Completed the Unpaved Roads Stormwater Management Toolkit under a MA Department of Environmental Protection Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant and distributed a copy to Orange. Conducted outreach to highway staff and conservation commission members.

Community Health

- Conducted the annual student health survey to assess attitudes and behavior among middle and high school students. Staff reported to RC Mahar Regional School District administrators on results from 172 Mahar students, representing 74% of the 8th, 10th, and 12th grade classes. Survey data meets federal requirements for the school and is valuable for grant writing and program planning. The 2024 survey includes the US Department of Education's School Climate Survey.
- Recruited three youth leaders from Mahar High School into the Communities That Care Coalition's Youth Leadership Program. Two youth leaders filmed the Prevention Needs Assessment Survey proctor video.
- Provided consultation to district administrators on restorative practices, equity professional development, social emotional resources, and programs and interventions to enhance the school's multi-tiered systems of support and improve school climate and culture.
- Provided regional networking opportunities with other school districts, youth-serving organizations, community mental and physical health organizations, and community resource centers.
- Supported the Orange Mass in Motion (MIM) Age-friendly workgroup on the age- and dementia-friendly municipal planning initiative. The town used MIM funding to build an ADA compliant ramp for the library.
- Met with the select board, senior center, town nurse, health director and residents to review the goals of the regional Age and Dementia Friendly Action Plan, and priorities for Orange.

- Provided grant funding and technical assistance to the Orange Health Department to support the community health education and communicable disease management work of the North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative, serving Orange, Warwick, Wendell, New Salem, and Petersham.
- Provided mentoring support and professional development training opportunities to public health inspection staff via three webinars, monthly email updates, individual phone calls and correspondence, and on-site visits.
- Hosted a county-wide opioid listening session for towns to hear from community members impacted by the opioid crisis on how to spend opioid abatement funds. This listening session was attended by 35 individuals regionally, representing many in recovery and local recovery organizations.
- Gathered available data around opioids - EMS incidents, deaths, and treatment, and created opioid data fact sheets.
- Supported Orange health department and others in hosting and publicizing state-funded COVID and flu vaccine clinics at community and school settings. County-wide these clinics served over 1,000 residents and provided over 1,500 vaccines.
- Created and distributed outreach materials about safe storage of cannabis, parenting tips, and resources to local cannabis businesses.

Economic Development

- Met with the Orange Economic Development & Industrial Corps Executive Director to review planning services and provide information.
- Met with municipal staff to review FRCOG Brownfields Programs and funded environmental site assessment activities at two municipally owned sites.
- Completed the 8-town Franklin County Cooperative Digital Equity Plan approved by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and assisted with application for digital equity implementation grant funding.

Shared Municipal Services

- Orange contracted with the FRCOG to receive collective bid pricing for highway products and services, including rental equipment, heating and vehicle fuel, elevator maintenance, town and school fire alarm services, and water treatment chemicals.
- FRCOC staff gathered, compiled, published, and distributed the results of its *Franklin County Municipal Wage and Salary Survey*, providing detailed municipal compensation and benefits packages data for local officials. Staff expanded the project in 2024, gathering information from 12 towns outside of the county for a regional compilation, along with relative MA Division of Local Services municipal statistical data to further assist all surveyed towns and cities with budget building and hiring comparisons.
- Used grant funding to organize, facilitate, and present local officials' capacity-building workshops throughout the year.
- Organized and facilitated educational information meetings for members of town's energy committees, including presenting information on various topics and conducting follow-up communication.

Training and Education

The following list represents the FRCOG workshops, roundtables and training sessions that your municipality's public officials, staff, and residents attended, and the number in attendance.

Community Health

- Aging Listening Session - 1
- Air Quality Monitoring - 2
- CHIP Progress Review - 3
- Food Safety - 1
- Food Safety/Reduced Oxygen Packaging - 1
- Franklin/Hampshire Training Hub OV - 1
- How to Inspect Rec Camps for Children - 2
- How to Write a Housing Order - 1
- Mass in Motion Community Engagement - 4

Emergency Prep & Homeland Security

- Crush, Impalement, & Entrapment Rescue - 17
- EMS Pediatric Care - 1
- Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support - 1

Municipal Officials' Continuing Education

- Highway Department Roundtable - 1
- Municipal Finance Basics - 3

Planning, Conservation, & Development

- Housing Myth Busting - 2

Transportation

- Completed a scope of work and executed a contract to update the town's slum and blight Inventory to secure MA Community Development Block Grant funding for infrastructure improvements.
- Completed an inventory and assessment of all town-maintained culverts.
- Provided culvert inventory data to town consultant for the creation of an asset management database.
- Continued to facilitate local awareness of Northern Tier Rail study to examine the feasibility of passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.
- Supported work with the MA Department of Transportation to advertise the Orange North Main Street Transportation Improvement Program project for construction.
- Continued to facilitate and assist the Route 2 Task Force with related planning, design, and construction of safety improvements for the corridor.
- Conducted traffic and pedestrian counts on Hayden Street.
- Coordinated the installation of Franklin County Bikeway wayfinding signs.
- Participated in a road safety audit of East Main Street.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES,
NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT (NQD)**
2024
ANNUAL REPORT

To the Board of Selectmen and Citizens of Athol, Phillipston, Petersham, Royalston and Orange:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts began providing for its veterans and their families in need, immediately following the Revolutionary War. In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, the state legislature formalized the assistance provided to veterans by establishing Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 115 and the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services (DVS).

DVS is the state's lead agency for overseeing the general welfare of the Commonwealth's nearly 400,000 living veterans. DVS establishes policy, proposes legislation, provides annual training, and ensures compliance with MGL Chapter 115 and other laws and regulations germane to serving veterans.

MGL Chapter 115: Section: 3B was passed into law by the Commonwealth during FY 2015 establishing the mandatory requirement whereby Directors of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers (VSO) must become legally certified. Mandatory recertification is required every three-years.

MGL Chapter 115 authorizes an eligible veteran to receive certain financial, medical, and other benefits earned by their military service. Services are available through the local area Director of Veterans' Services/Veterans' Services Officers living in one of the Commonwealth's 351 communities.

DISTRICT GOVERNANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary – DVS authorized the Northeast Quabbin Veterans' Services District to begin operations in January 2006. DVS requires the district to reapply every two years to continue operations. On April 5, 2024, the Director Appointment was renewed to June 30, 2025. April 10, 2024 DVS granted approval for the district to continue operating through June 30, 2026.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 115: Section 11, for every authorized district, there shall be a Board of Directors. The board consists of a representative appointed by the Board of Selectmen from each member community. The Board establishes By-Laws to define district administration and operations compliant with MGL Chapter 115.

Led by the Director of Veterans' Services, the NQD serves veterans and dependents having a formal residence in Athol, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston and Royalston.

VETERANS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED AND OR ASSISTED BY THE NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT

A. MGL Chapter 115

1. A program of financial and medical assistance that may be available to veterans and/or dependents based on eligibility requirements.
2. The following chart represents FY24 Veterans' Benefits paid, by community, to its eligible veterans and/or dependents. Benefits paid are normally reimbursed at 75% by the Commonwealth. There are exceptions, where some benefits are eligible for 100% reimbursement.

FY24 CHAPTER 115 VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA

Town	Benefits Paid	State Reimbursements	% Reimbursed
Athol	\$101,237.78	\$75,928.33	75%
Orange	\$35,707.00	\$26,780.25	75%
Petersham	\$156.06	\$117.04	75%
Phillipston	\$0.00	\$0.00	0%
Royalston	\$7,766.16	\$5,824.26	75%

3. Burials in one of two Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, Winchendon and Agawam.
4. Women Veterans' Network – Provides women veterans with information on benefits, expand awareness of the needs, and identify health and human resources to meet those needs.
5. Homeless prevention, Transitional Housing and outreach services.
6. Wartime Bonuses, Annuities etc.
7. And more...

2024 ALL OTHER VETERANS' BENEFITS DATA FOR THE NORTHEAST QUABBIN DISTRICT

(SOURCE OF DATA FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

1. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Applications for Agent Orange illnesses, Mesothelioma, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Military Sexual Trauma (MST) service-connected disabilities, pensions, Dependency & Indemnity Compensation, healthcare, veterans' grave markers, income-based pensions, dependent compensation (DIC), etc.
 - a. The 2024 updated HERO Act has increased annuity payments from \$2000 to \$2500, annually for those eligible to receive this benefit.
 - b. There are approximately 380,000 veterans in the Commonwealth. In FY 2024 the Department of Veterans' Services spent approximately \$104M to support Massachusetts' Veterans and their families.
2. Department of Defense (DOD): Military records; medical records; medals, decorations and awards not previously issued; applications to correct Military Records.
3. Other Agencies including:
 - a. Massachusetts Department of Health & Human Services
 - b. Massachusetts Department of Workforce Development
 - c. U.S. Social Security Administration
 - d. U.S. Department of Labor
 - e. MassHire Franklin Hampshire
 - f. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - g. U.S. Department of Justice
 - h. Other Massachusetts & U.S. Departments, Non-Profit Organizations and state agencies.

With the PACT Act from 2022 in place, we continued to see a rise in the numbers of veterans applying for service-connected disabilities, both new and increases. Starting March 5, 2024, VA health care was expanded to millions more, through the PACT Act.

With the resurgence of COVID and its variants, the office remains open to the public by appointment only. The office fielded 1081 phone calls, in-person appointments and home visits in the last year. The Board and Director managed to successfully take care of all supportive needs presented by veterans' and their families.

Veterans with service-connected disabilities are eligible for VA Healthcare. All other veterans may be eligible for VA Healthcare based on defined criteria. Wartime and peacetime veterans may qualify for VA Healthcare.

I look forward to continue serving veterans, spouses, surviving spouses of a deceased veteran, and dependents formally residing in one of the District's communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah C Custer

Sarah C. Custer

Director, Northeast Quabbin District
Veterans' Services

Franklin County Tech Member Towns



ADMINISTRATION

Rick Martin
Russ Kaubris
Brian Spadafino
Nathan May
Margaret Nugent
Ben Niles
Amber Crochier
Joe Gamache

ROLES

Superintendent-Director
Business Manager
Principal
Director of Student Services
Director of Career & Technical Education
Assistant Principal
Assistant Principal/ Curriculum Coordinator
Dean of Students

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Brad Stafford
Adam Griffin
Nicole Slowinski
John Pelletier
Bob Decker
Jacquie Boyden
Sandy Brown
Paul Doran
George VanDelinder
Barb Yetter
Matthew Duley
Arthur Schwenger
Gerald Levine
Richard Kuklewicz
Christopher Bonnett
Bryan Camden
Laura Earl
Tim Currier
Amber Robidoux
Robert Miller
James Bernotas
Todd Weed
Jeffrey Budine
Amy Lavallee

COMMUNITY

Bernardston
Buckland
Colrain
Conway
Deerfield
Erving
Gill
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Greenfield
Heath
Leyden
Montague
Montague
New Salem
Northfield
Orange
Orange
Shelburne
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

FCTS Mission Statement

It is the mission of Franklin County Technical School to prepare all students to achieve a future of successful careers, technical and intellectual curiosity, healthy life choices and strength of character

FY25 Annual Report to Towns

We submit this annual report for the 2024-25 school year on behalf of the Franklin County Technical School District and its administration, faculty, staff and students. The enrollment numbers presented below are from the Statewide October 1, 2024 enrollment count, the State's annual "official" count. As of October 2024 the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) has an enrollment of 590 students with member town breakouts as follows:

Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students	Town	Students
Bernardston	25	Erving	31	Montague	73	Sunderland	9
Buckland	24	Gill	16	New Salem	12	Warwick	5
Colrain	29	Greenfield	135	Northfield	50	Wendell	6
Conway	8	Heath	13	Orange	87	Whately	14
Deerfield	32	Leyden	10	Shelburne	11		

The Franklin County Technical School awarded 143 diplomas to our seniors in June of 2024. Massachusetts students are required to pass the MCAS to receive a high school diploma, and once again, our students were very successful in meeting this high academic standard. The state has adjusted its measures for evaluating district/school accountability, and FCTS maintained the equivalent of a Level 2 accountability status out of a 5-point scale, with 1 being the highest and 5 the lowest. Additionally, the district is meeting targets the Department of Education set for passing rates of students of high risk with disabilities.

FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to our school grounds and facility, saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. These shop programs also saved member towns an estimated \$100,000 in capital improvement projects.

Franklin County Technical School students are learning the value of paid work opportunities through a newly revamped Cooperative Education Program (Coop). In 2023, FCTS had approximately 38% of our seniors involved in paid co-op jobs related to their vocational field of study. FCTS also offers excellent academic offerings with increased course offerings in advanced placement, honors, foreign language, credit recovery, and special education to provide all students with the opportunity to be prepared for college and career readiness. Franklin County Technical School continues to experience increased enrollment and popularity within Franklin County, which has translated to new vocational-technical programs in the fields of Veterinary Animal Science, Medical Assisting, and a new Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) program. These new vibrant programs are the first new vocational programs at FCTS in more than 40 years, bringing the total number of Chapter 74 vocational-technical programs to 15. Unlike other school districts, which may offer a 45-minute course in a specific trade area, FCTS students follow a strict Chapter 74 guided program where students are immersed in their trade for 6.5 hours a day, develop industry recognized credentials, and are often placed in paid employment through COOP. This robust schedule allows students to meet industry competency guidelines.

FCTS has received an occupancy permit and is completed with a new 4,800-square-foot Veterinary Science Learning Center and Clinic. The building is located on the FCTS campus. This facility will be used to provide students with real-world experiences in the veterinary field.

The new Aviation program has started for the 2024-25 school year. This program will provide students with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) credentials in Aviation Maintenance Technology (AMT). FCTS was fortunate to receive a 4.2-million-dollar competitive grant to build a new 12,000-square-foot aviation hangar and 1.4 million dollars of certified FAA equipment, aircraft, and training modules. This grant should cover the entire cost of the facility with no additional financial help needed from our member towns. The FCTS hangar will be located on the adjacent Turners Falls Municipal Airport grounds. The AMT program will include a twin-engine airplane, two single-engine airplanes, one glider, and one helicopter, as well as machines, equipment, engine simulators, and tools required by the FAA for an AMT certification program. FCTS will become one of the few

high schools in the country to offer a credentialed FAA program. Graduating students of the AMT program will have the opportunity to obtain 1200 hours of FAA training, allowing them to sit for an FAA license exam. Upon leaving high school, an FAA certification will send our students on their way to a career in aviation. FCTS is nearly 50 years old and has experienced electrical switch gear issues, roof leaks, plumbing and drainage issues, underground piping and conduit related issues, elimination of auditorium to accommodate enrollment, and a host of additional facility concerns to provide adequate student space and learning needs. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintain the FCTS facility over the last several years. To resolve this, FCTS has been approval for a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) funded project for either a renovation or core building. FCTS has budgeted money over the last several years to fund a Feasibility Study without having to bond or charge our member towns with additional assessments. We are currently in the design phase of the project to determine what is feasible for FCTS and it's member towns to renovate, build new, or seek other alternatives. The design phase will take a couple of years for completion prior to seeking town approval.

Franklin County Technical School's technical programs continue to improve and evolve through competitive Skills Capital Grants. FCTS has received more than 6.2 million dollars in State grants over the last 7 years. These funds have significantly enhanced our Welding, Medical Assisting, Veterinary Science, Machine Technology, and Aviation vocational-technical programs. FCTS also partners with the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Greenfield Community College to offer evening programs for underemployed and displaced workers to obtain a certification in Advanced Precision Machining using the latest 21st-century technology in our CNC machines. Through these highly competitive skills grants, FCTS also received \$500,000 to build a mobile welding simulator lab to develop technical skills for FCTS students toward certification. FCTS has begun partnering with the Franklin County House of Corrections to utilize the new mobile welding simulator lab and provide competency training to inmates.

In addition, FCTS applied for and received a total of 1.8 million dollars in grants over the last several years to implement new adult evening training programs through the Commonwealth Corporation's Career Technical Initiative (CTI). Since 2022, FCTS initiated adult training courses in Welding, Auto Technology, and Carpentry through the CTI grant. FCTS continues to explore more programs for evening courses in 2024. The CTI grants are helping FCTS to start its adult program offerings, such as electrical and hobby courses with plans to add more in the future. FCTS has hired a full-time adult evening school coordinator to accomplish these goals and meet industry and community needs.

The following lists our many projects conducted in the past few years:

- Home building project on Petty Plain Road in Greenfield. Funded by a non-profit foundation.
- Storage shed for the Charlemont Federated Church
- Pavilion for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Town of Heath parking lot and office lights retrofitting
- Landscaping design for Shelburne Falls pocket park
- Landscaping at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery
- Landscaping at Veteran's Memorial Park in Pelham
- Landscaping at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls
- Tree planting for South Deerfield and Turners Falls
- Wreaths made and hung at the Conway Covered Bridge
- Technology support to the Montague Senior Center
- Website development for the UCC Church in Conway
- Audio and video help for online church services at the First Congregational Church of Ashfield
- New construction assistance on the new FCTS Hangar and Veterinary buildings
- Culinary presentation to the Northfield Senior Center
- Luncheons for the Montague Housing Authority and the Erving Red Hat Society
- Breakfast Catering for the Chamber of Commerce, School Resource Officer's and Light Up the Fairgrounds
- Repairs to the Highland Cemetery Gate in Millers Falls
- Fabrication of an air conditioner cover for the Town of Warwick
- Installed a bench at the French King Bridge in Erving

- Installed brackets for the Franklin County Land Trust for signage
- Repairs to recycling carts for the Franklin County Fair
- Time capsule design and construction for the towns of Deerfield and Northfield
- Blood pressure clinic and nail clinic for the Erving Senior Center.
- Volunteer work at the Arbors Assisted Living and Regal Care facilities in Greenfield
- Holiday meals served at the Stone Soup Cafe in Greenfield
- Cosmetology services for Poet Seat Nursing Home, Linda Manor Assisted Living, Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston Senior Center
- Volunteer work at the Dakin Humane Society

The Franklin County Technical School is forward-thinking as it continues to review labor demand and market analysis to add new programs to its offerings. The School Committee supports our students as they obtain competencies and training to make them competitive in the workplace or at college. Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those who allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Our partnerships with our communities are important for our programs, and we thank those which allow our students the opportunity to practice their trades out in the field.

Respectfully,



Mr. Richard J. Kuklewicz
School Committee Chairman



Mr. Richard J. Martin
Superintendent-Director



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ORANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024

COMMITTEE

Member	Email Address	Term Expires
Mallory Ellis, Chair	malloryellis@orange-elem.org	2025
Josefa Scherer, Vice Chair	josefascherer@orange-elem.org	2027
Jessica Reske	jessicareske@orange-elem.org	2026
Yarelyn Ramos-Martinez	yarelynramos-martinez@orange-elem.org	2025
Frank Hains	frankhains@orange-elem.org	2026

**Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski, Superintendent of Schools
Michele Tontodonato, Director of Finance and Operations**

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Office Telephone: 978-544-2920

District Website: <http://www.orange-elem.org>



To the members of the Orange Elementary School District Committee and the voters of the Orange Elementary School District, I submit my Annual Report as Superintendent. The report to the Orange Elementary School Committee covers the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. As such, all reports cover the final half of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year and the first half of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Personnel

The district welcomed the expertise of the following new faculty/staff members in 2023-2024:

Name	Position
Mullen, Christine	Grade 1 Teacher
Oertel, Victoria	Paraprofessional
Flanders, Kim	.5 Interventionist

<i>Costa, Katherine</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Carra, Allyson</i>	<i>LPN- Fisher Hill</i>
<i>Rogers, Talana</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Cloutier, Megan</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Salone, Patrick</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Weissman, Beth</i>	<i>Nurse</i>
<i>Bressani, Katrina</i>	<i>Director of Food Services</i>
<i>Kimball, Jason</i>	<i>Head Day Custodian</i>
<i>Rose, Cheri</i>	<i>LPN</i>
<i>Coller, Tracy</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Cirillo, Deneen</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>
<i>Johnson, William</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>
<i>Maillet, Brianna</i>	<i>Title I Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Belloli, Tricia</i>	<i>LT Sub TLC Teacher</i>
<i>Velez, Yachira</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>
<i>Rousseau, Alyssa</i>	<i>LT Sub- Kindergarten Teacher</i>
<i>Martineau, Jessica</i>	<i>Kindergarten Teacher</i>
<i>Poirier, Alicia</i>	<i>LT Sub Grade 4 Teacher</i>
<i>Kelly, Kathryn</i>	<i>Grade 6 Special Education Teacher</i>
<i>Zimmerman, Stephanie</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Coache, Adam</i>	<i>Night Custodian</i>

<i>Peterson, Ashley</i>	<i>Paraprofessional- One Year Position Kindergarten</i>
<i>Mathurin, Makayla</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Voudren, Felicia Marie</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>Rivera, Aliah</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>
<i>Caranfa, Laura</i>	<i>LPN</i>
<i>Roy, Theresa</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>
<i>Fillion, Peggy</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>
<i>MacGregor, Bethany</i>	<i>General Cafeteria Worker</i>
<i>Cloutier, Megan</i>	<i>Lunch/Recess Monitor</i>

Faculty and Staff Retirements

The following staff retired during the year:

Name	Position
<i>Sue Nolan</i>	<i>Paraprofessional</i>



We offer our thanks and appreciation to these individuals whose work has impacted countless students at Orange Elementary!



New Fisher Hill School

Continued Improvement

As we reflect on our second full year in the new Fisher Hill building, we are delighted to share significant advancements in student academic growth. Last year, we celebrated our progress in the state accountability index (CPI), moving from the 7th percentile to the 13th percentile. This year, we have achieved extraordinary growth once again, elevating our standing from the 13th percentile to the 24th percentile! This remarkable achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, educators, support staff, administration and our students' caregivers.

These gains could not have been accomplished without the exceptional leadership of our administration and the unwavering efforts of our educators and paraprofessionals. Their commitment to fostering a nurturing and effective learning environment is evident in our students' achievements.

Our District Leadership Team plays an integral role in supporting this mission. By conducting regular classroom walkthroughs and visiting grade-level teams, we provide constructive feedback to our staff, highlighting their strengths while identifying areas for growth. This collaborative effort includes a diverse group of professionals, comprising administration, teachers, and specialized consultants who work together to ensure our students receive the best possible education.

As we look ahead, we are excited about the continued opportunities for improvement and achievement. Thank you for your ongoing support of Fisher Hill School. Together, we are transforming the educational experience for our students and building a brighter future for all.

Enrollment for 2023-2024:

Grade PK	Grade K	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Total
46	68	48	82	58	75	73	73	523

Orange Elementary At-A-Glance for 2023-2024:

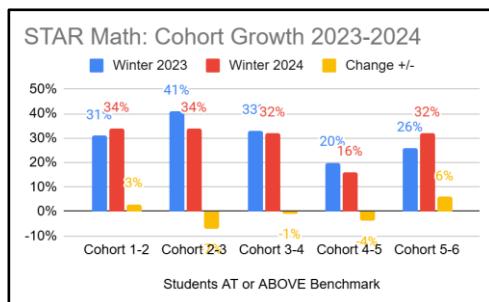
Enrollment	523
Average Class Size	19.4
Student Attendance Rate	94.7
Number of Teachers	42
Student to Teacher Ratio	12.5:1
Students with Disabilities	189
Economically Disadvantaged	414
High Needs	451
English Language Learners	12
School Choice In	4
School Choice Out	55
Students Per Computer	1
Classrooms on the Internet (%)	100%

Student Assessment Performance ~ 2024

The regularly scheduled battery of student assessments resumed beginning in 2024 with students participating in both State and local assessments. In January of 2024, students in grades 1-6 took mid-year assessments in mathematics and reading. Students in Kindergarten-Grade 3 took a mid-year assessment of foundational reading skills (DIBELS 8).

While we compared our scores over time, we saw a significant increase in student performance on MCAS from 2023-2024 with the school's accountability percentile increasing from the 3rd percentile to the 24th percentile, thus moving the district/school off of the State accountability list. Students continue to recover the ground they lost due to Covid.

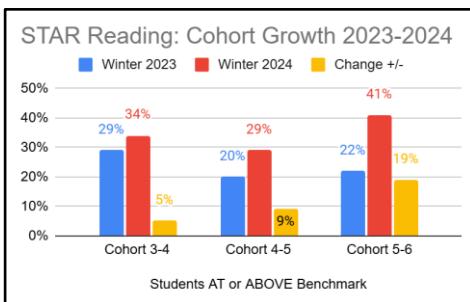
January 2024, assessment data measured student cohort performance in reading and math as measured by the STAR Assessment:



STAR Math

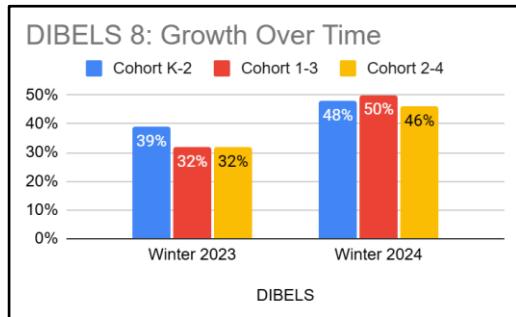
- Students in Grades 1 to 2 had a 3% increase in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 2 to 3 had a 7% decrease in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 3 to 4 had a 1% decrease in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 4 to 5 had a 4% decrease in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 5 to 6 had a 6% increase in students reading at or above benchmark

STAR Reading



- Students in Grades 3 to 4 had a 5% increase in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 4 to 5 had a 9% increase in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 5 to 6 had a 19% increase in students reading at or above benchmark

DIBELS Data



- Students in Grades K to 2 had a 7% decrease in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 1 to 3 had a 18% increase in students reading at or above benchmark
- Students in Grades 2 to 4 had a 14% increase in students reading at or above benchmark

STAR Early Literacy

- Grade 1 having 68% percent of students at or above benchmark on the STAR Early Literacy Assessment compared to 49% in the Fall
- Grade 2 having 14% of students at or above benchmark on the STAR Early Literacy Assessment compared to 60% in the Spring

Due to the purchasing of new curricular materials and DESE's declassification of the STAR assessment as being considered HQIM (High Quality Instructional Materials) the district made the shift to the NWEA MAP assessment. Administrators and the data team explored this option in the spring and teachers were training on the new assessment platform in the late fall of 2024 with initial full implementation in January 2025.

MCAS

In the fall of 2024, the district received its 2024 MCAS reports from the State. The 2024 results saw the district moving out of its accountability status with its movement to the 24th percentile. Movement out of the State's accountability system saw the removal of DESE's SSoS team and monthly meetings as required due to its previous underperforming status.

Overall Classification: Not requiring assistance or intervention

- Meeting or exceeding targets
- 89% rate for meeting or exceeding targets

Accountability Percentile: 24 (up from 13 in 2023)

- English language arts (all students): Recovery Path: Exceeded Target
- Mathematics (all students): Recovery Path: Exceeded Target
- Science (all students): Recovery Path: Exceeded Target (grade 5)
- ELA growth (all students): Typical Growth - High
- Mathematics growth (all students): Typical Growth - Low
- Chronic absenteeism (all students): Met Target

- Assessment participation (all students): 2024 Target Met

This is our year three data (post Covid) in the MCAS assessment system. Some of the ways in which we are working to narrow our schools' achievement gap and increase students' academic proficiency has been:

- Continued Implementation of SEL curriculum (*Second Steps*)
- Continued professional development in early literacy instruction (*Appleseeds*)
- Continued implementation of high-quality instructional materials -- all core subjects: ELA (*Wonders 2020*), Mathematics (*Into Math*), Science (*KnowAtom*), and Social Studies (*Savvas MyWorld*)
- Continued implementation of a tiered system of academic support in reading and math -- addition of a Title I mathematics para for SY 2024-2025

The district will continue to provide educators with professional development in:

- Curriculum development, implementation and evaluation
- Teacher understanding of grade level expectations for student performance, common assessment practices, regular data review, and implementation of evidence based practices

The district will continue to refine its:

- Tiered systems of support and interventions for students, both for academics and behavior, that use ongoing data collection and review process to make decisions for student programming and resource allocation
- Structures that allow ongoing communication for staff in school/district level decisions and school improvement efforts
- Expectations and evaluation of staff
- Allocation of resources (staff and budget) to support Tiered instruction



ORANGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
District Prioritization Submission
2023-2024

The Orange Elementary Schools has developed a District Priority Plan to address the underperforming designation from DESE. Orange Elementary Schools initially was designated as requiring assistance or intervention in 2014. At that time the district began working with DESE to provide support to the schools. As of November 2024, Orange Elementary School was able to exit this plan due to their increase percentile rank (24th) as determined by the 2024 MCAS results.

While the district has exited this plan, they continue to employ many of the strategies outlined in the plan; however, these are done under the sole eye of the district rather than thorough a collaboration between the district and DESE>

The district will continue to implement the following aspects of the District's Priority Plan the following goal was determined to as measures of student success and growth:

- Support teachers in improving classroom effectiveness by focusing on analysis and application of student data to improve student outcomes and provide appropriate curriculum and teaching strategies that ensure equity and non-biased instruction and learning opportunities for all students
 - Teachers will use ongoing formative assessment data and routine progress monitoring data to adjust instruction for students to make measurable gains. The data utilized will include DIBELS 8, NWEA MAP Growth data (new local assessment, replacing the STAR assessments), and *Into Math* data (new core math program).
 - Teachers will utilize evidence-based practices, core, high quality, curriculum materials, and culturally responsive practices to provide ALL students with access to grade-level standards ensuring equal access to the curriculum; and ALL students will have access to tiered academic and behavioral supports to make meaningful gains as measured by bi-monthly District walkthroughs and PLC meetings.

New for 2024-2025

Core Evidence Based Curriculum, Assessment, and Interventions

- Continued implementation of core, standards-based reading program (*Wonders 2020*) for Grades K-6
- Continued implementation of foundation reading core program (*Appleseeds*) for Grades K-2
- Implementation of a new core, standards-based mathematics program (*Into Math*) for Grades K-6
- Continued implementation of the science program (*KnowAtom*) for Grades K-6
- Continued implementation of the social studies program (*Savvas MyWorld*) for Grades K-6
- Continued implementation of the SEL program (*Second Steps*) for Grades PreK-6
- Continued implementation a full-day preschool program for 4 year olds
- Continued implementation of preschool from two classrooms to three classrooms
- Continued implementation of mathematics support program to target identified needs (*ST Math* – funded through a grant)
- Continued implementation of a reading support program to target identified foundational needs at the primary level (*Lexia* – funded through a Title I grant)
- Continued implementation of standardized and normed literacy assessment system for grades K-3 to identify reading gaps early for targeted instruction (*Amplify mClass* [DIBELS 8] – funded through a Title I grant)

- Continued school vacation acceleration academies for targeted students in need of academic support (funded through a Title I grant)
- Continued 4 week summer program for targeted students in need of academic support

Professional Development

- Participation for K-2 teachers in the implementation of the *Appleseeds* core phonic program (grant funded)
- Continue to provide professional development for teacher in the new HQIM curricula purchased
-

Instructional Supports, Coaching, and Fidelity to Program Implementation

- Scheduled classroom walkthroughs to assess the implementation of the new *Into Math* mathematics program by the administration team and consultants to target supports, additional materials, and professional development to educators. The walkthrough team consists of the following individuals: Superintendent, Director of Curriculum, Director of Special Education, Principal, Building Deans, and teaching staff
- Continuation of monthly district walkthroughs to access implementation of curriculum and evidence-based teaching practices to monitor turn around practices identified in the 2023-2024 School Priority Plan

Financial Supports

- The deliberate braiding of various grant funding (Entitlement, State, Special Education, local, and private) with district funds to provide explicit, evidence based, and target instruction, materials, professional development, and support to increase academic proficiency for ALL students.

Parents as Partners

Parents are the first teachers of their children. Support from parents is key to helping our children progress academically when they enter elementary school and progress grade to grade. Here are some ways parents can help their children develop skills to be successful students.

- Attend Back-to-School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Visit the School, Its Website & Social Media pages
- Support Homework Expectations
- Send Your Child to School Ready to Learn with Nutritious Meals and Plenty of Sleep
- Teach Your Child Organizational and Study Skills
- Know the Disciplinary Policies
- Get Involved
- Take Attendance Seriously
- Make Time to Talk About School

The early years of schooling are an important time for parents to be informed and supportive about their child's education and to set the stage for children to develop and grow as young learners. We encourage parents to communicate with your child's teacher and the Administration.

The dedication of the faculty, staff, and administration, as well as the tremendous efforts made by School Committee members, is making a difference for children of Orange.

Respectfully submitted by:
 Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski
 Superintendent of Schools



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
RALPH C. MAHAR REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024**

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Committee Member	Town	Term Expires
Peter Cross, Chair	Orange	2025
Patricia Smith, Vice-Chair	Orange	2027
Carla Halpern	New Salem	Appointed
Lynn Peredina	Petersham	Appointed
Maryanne Reynolds	Petersham	2025
Kate Woodward	Wendell	Appointed
Shannon Johnson	Orange	2027
Sharon Gilmore	Orange	2027
Katie Hunkler	Orange	2026
Crystal Clarke	Orange	2026
Frank Hains	Orange	2026



STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Delana Faucette

Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski, Superintendent
Gabriele Voelker, District Treasurer
Michele Tontodonato, Director of Finance

Office Hours: 8:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Office Telephone: 978-544 2920
District Website: <http://www.rcmahar.org>

To the members of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee and the voters of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District, I submit my Annual Report as Superintendent. The report to the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School Committee covers the period January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. As such, all reports cover the final half of the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year and the first half of the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of the R.C. Mahar Regional and School Union 73 Public Schools to prepare and motivate our students for a rapidly changing world by instilling in them critical thinking skills, a global perspective, and a respect for themselves, their community, the nation and the world.

Mission Statement

The R.C. Mahar Regional and School Union 73 Public Schools mission is to provide all students a challenging, comprehensive learning experience through high quality instruction that supports each student's academic, social, and emotional development to prepare students to thrive in a democratic and technological global society for all of their future endeavors.

MASS Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence for 2024-2025

Lian & Luan Lopez-Baez

Luan and Lian are outstanding students who have made a significant impact at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. Luan stands out as a gifted musician, scholar, and empathetic role model. He has excelled in challenging courses, including multiple AP classes, and has consistently been on high honors. He is involved in extracurricular activities such as playing clarinet in prestigious ensembles, participating in basketball, and serving in leadership roles like class president. His hard work and dedication have earned him numerous accolades, including being nominated for the College of the Atlantic Book Award. Luan's warmth and empathy have made him a valuable peer and mentor, especially in his role as an ambassador to elementary students.

Lian, ranked second in his class, shares many of the same qualities as his brother. He is an equally driven scholar, excelling in AP courses and earning all A's. Lian is also a talented musician, playing saxophone in the school band and guitar in his free time. He has a passion for basketball, both playing for his school team and coaching younger players. Lian is deeply involved in community service through Key Club and has been a member of the Student Council for four years. His efforts to improve the school's academic offerings, such as advocating for additional math coursework, showcase his leadership and commitment to his education and community.

Both Luan and Lian are dedicated, hardworking, and exceptional individuals who have thrived in their academic pursuits, extracurricular activities, and leadership roles. They are not only top students but also compassionate individuals who have embraced their parents' sacrifices by striving to make the most of their opportunities.

R. C. Mahar Regional Highlights for Students Future Success and Employment

Throughout 2024, the R.C. Mahar School District has made significant strides in enhancing student experiences and achievements, focusing particularly on reducing chronic absenteeism and promoting diverse pathways for career exploration.

One of the district's key initiatives has been the implementation of an Attendance Recovery Program, designed to combat chronic absenteeism. This innovative program encourages students to attend school on Saturdays and during vacation breaks to make up for missed days. By creating additional opportunities for attendance, the district aims to foster a sense of responsibility among students and improve overall academic engagement.

In alignment with its commitment to career readiness, the district has provided students with various pathways for future career exploration. Notably, several students participated in and successfully passed the Paraprofessional License test. This accomplishment not only allowed them to work as paraprofessionals at Fisher Hill Elementary School but also enabled them to earn credits toward their education and receive stipends for their valuable contributions. These students also engaged with the Massachusetts Workforce Development Program, funded through grants, further enhancing their skills and employability.

Moreover, the administrative team has prioritized increased classroom visits to gather data on student progress. These visits facilitate meaningful discussions between administration and teaching staff, ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned in support of student success.

A highlight of the year was the launch of the Unified Sports Program, featuring basketball and track events. This initiative enables students with significant disabilities to compete alongside their peers, fostering inclusivity and school spirit. R.C. Mahar students have actively participated by supporting and cheering on their Unified Sports teammates, creating a vibrant community atmosphere.

In another testament to the district's commitment to career readiness, numerous students earned their OSHA 10 licenses, with some advancing toward higher OSHA certifications. These qualifications open doors for students, allowing them to apply for co-ops and internships across various industries, further preparing them for successful futures.

Recognizing the importance of emotional well-being, R.C. Mahar staff received training in trauma-informed care and suicide prevention. This training equips educators to better support students' social and emotional development, addressing critical needs in today's educational landscape.

In summary, the R.C. Mahar School District has implemented impactful programs and initiatives throughout 2024 that prioritize attendance, career readiness, inclusivity, and mental health awareness. These efforts collectively contribute to a supportive and nurturing environment that empowers students to reach their full potential. The district looks forward to building on these accomplishments in the coming years, continuing its mission to foster student success and well-being.

The Class of 2024



Class President – David Vitello

Class Secretary – Ava Doody

Class Treasurer – Laura McGinnis

Class Motto – “The Tassel’s Worth The Hassle”

Class Colors – Red & Blue

Class Flower – Rose

Graduates

Ace	Allen
Jaxson	Archambault
Noah	Bailey
William	Barnes
Richard	Beeman
Trinity	Bergeron
Isabella	Bodon
Logan	Burke
Arianna	Canning
Josiah	Cardona
Owen	Carl
Franklin	Chiodo
Dakota	Cleveland
Jalie	Codrington
Benjamin	Cole
Kaedyn	Coy
Sophia	Cronin
Audrey	Danielson
Brianna	Dicato
Ava	Doody
Alexander	Dowler
Obi	Eaton
Hazel	Emery
Ilana	Gariepy
Christian	Gonzalez Sagastume
Brendan	Gruszkowski
Michael	Hall
Kyle	Hardy
Lucas	Isrow
Joshua	Jenks
John Joseph	King
Jeffrey	LaPlante
Kealan	Lawrence
Brianna	Maillet
Nora	Mathurin
Laura	McGinnis
Darik	Parlett
Megan	Parse
Alivia	Patch
Mackenzie	Phinney
Noah	Rich
Sayyid	Roberts
Melony	Rodriguez
Caleb	Rodriguez
Lucien	Rolski
Aiden	Saviski
Julian	Smith
Hailey	Sousa
Treighton	St Pierre
Anthony	Stone
Carmichael	Thompson
David	Vitello
Brooke	Voudren
Dominic	Whitman
Evan	Woodbury

New Personnel

The district welcomed the expertise of the following new faculty/staff members during the 2023-2024 school year:

Name	Position
Goncalves, Nicole	General Worker- Cafeteria
Renaud, Angelia	Paraprofessional
Powell, Maeve	Academic Paraprofessional
Hughes, Mitchell	Assistant Principal
Bressani, Katrina	Director of Food Services
Chase, Laura	Night Custodian
Phillips, Frances	Dean of Students
Fontes, Ana Lua	Speech and Language Pathologist
Onofri, Rosemary	TLC Teacher
LaRaja, Taryn	Reading Specialist Teacher
Bonk, Steve	General Worker- Cafeteria
Lemay, Julie	Paraprofessional
Peterson, Sarah	Long Term Substitute- Paraprofessional
Potvin, Tabitha	Special Education Paraprofessional
Curtis, Colee	Long Term Substitute- Art Teacher
Nardone. Trystan	Paraprofessional
Johnson, Dan	Night Custodian
Lehmann, Carrie	TLC Teacher

Faculty and Staff Retirements

The following faculty/staff members retired during the 2023-2024 school year:

Schulze, Barb	Science Teacher/Dept. Coordinator
Burgess, Denise	Night Custodian

We offer our thanks and appreciation to these individuals whose work has impacted countless students at Mahar Regional School!

R.C. MAHAR ENROLLMENT for 2023- 2024
(DESE School and District Profile)

Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Total
90	103	82	94	76	64	509

KEY METRICS for 2023-2024
(DESE School and District Profile)

Enrollment at RC Mahar	509
Average Attendance Rate	91.8
Average Class Size	12.1
Number of Teachers	56.9
Students with Disabilities	138
High Needs	332
English Language Learners	6
Graduation Rate - 4 Year	84.9

In Conclusion

As part of our commitment to improve student achievement at Ralph C. Mahar Regional School, we continue to focus on the implementation of our School Improvement Plan and review academic data to inform instructional change. To learn more about this initiative, please visit our website, where you can access the full plan.

We invite parents and guardians to play an active role in enhancing our school community. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- Support your child's learning at home.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and special meetings.
- Volunteer your time within our school or district.
- Encourage other parents to engage and participate.

For additional information about our school and to view the official report card, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education at:

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Report Card:
<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/school.aspx?linkid=31&orgcode=07550505 org typecode=6>

If you have questions about the qualifications of your child's classroom teachers, do not hesitate to contact us at 978-544-2920.

With immense pride, I present the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School District's end-of-year report. Our school is well-positioned to make a significant impact on personalized learning and civic engagement for all students.

Dr. Elizabeth Zielinski
 Superintendent of Schools



Town of Orange
Office of the Board of Assessors

6 Prospect Street
Orange, MA 01364
978-544-1100 x 108



Cynthia Brown, Chair
Randi BJORLIN, Member
Lisa Elliot, Member

Kristen Cormier, Assistant Assessor
assessors@townoforange.org

ANNUAL REPORT – 2024 -Town of Orange- Assessor's Office
ORANGE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Board of Assessors is responsible for the valuation of real estate and personal property subject to taxation. The Registry of Motor Vehicles is responsible for motor vehicle valuations and supplies the data for excise bills. Assessed values for Real and Personal Property are based on “full and fair cash value” as of January 1st, preceding each fiscal year.

Property Class	<u>Fiscal 2024 Assessments and Revenues by Major Class</u>			
	<u>Levy Percent</u>	<u>Valuations by Class</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
Residential	81.4257%	673,153,591	17.44	11,739,798.63
Commercial	8.2035%	67,819,223	17.44	1,182,767.25
Industrial	5.5957%	46,260,370	17.44	806,780.85
Personal Property	4.7751%	39,476,020	17.44	688,461.79
TOTALS	100%	826,709,204	17.44	14,417,808.52

Fiscal 2024 Assessments and Revenues by Major Class

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Total Valuation</u>	<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Changes %</u>
2024	17.44	826,709,204	3,744	14,417,808.52	7.5092
2023	17.96	746,701,955	3,765	13,410,767.12	5.7592
2022	19.12	663,204,773	3,723	12,680,475.25	3.6264
2021	20.05	610,310,599	3,571	12,236,727.51	4.8001
2020	22.52	574,336,009	3,554	11,676,251.06	2.9006

Assessor's Account for Exemptions and Abatements

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY2024</u>	<u>FY2023</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2020</u>
Assessor's Overlay	0.00	141,347.00	150,438.48	199,770.76	122,131.51
Overlay Deficits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Charges to 6/30/2019	97,801.77	97,214.97	88,431.01	91,124.53	94,215.16
Potential Liability	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Balance	-97,801.77	44,132.03	62,007.47	108,646.23	27,916.35

<u>New Growth Revenue</u>				
<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Added Valuation</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>New Revenues</u>	<u>Change %</u>
2024	7,254,420	17.96	130,289	-39.69
2023	11,299,232	19.12	216,042	513.91
2022	1,755,192	20.05	35,191	-87.16
2021	13,486,080	20.33	274,173	243.38

Fiscal Year 2024 Abstract of Assessments

<u>Property Class</u>	<u>Code/Description</u>	<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Class Valuation</u>	<u>Average Value</u>
101 Residential Single				
Family		2,135	544,469,600	255,021
102 Residential Condominiums		50	12,816,100	256,322
012-043 Mixed Use Properties		22	26,550,100	1,206,823
104 Residential Two Family		157	33,212,200	211,543
105 Residential Three				
Family		33	5,999,800	181,812
103, 109 Miscellaneous Residential		134	22,460,200	167,613
111-125 Apartments		40	20,238,400	505,960
130-132, 106 Vacant Land		515	16,426,171	31,895
300-393 Commercial		173	61,516,400	355,586
400-442 Industrial		45	38,653,050	858,957
501-508 Personal Property		51	20,843,110	408,688
600-821 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B		107	1,340,263	12,526
Exempt 900's		214	83,421,108	
TOTALS		3,676	887,946,502	

As always, if you have any questions regarding any assessing issues, please feel free to contact Kristen Cormier, Assistant Assessor at 978-544-1100 x108 or by email at assessors@townoforange.org.

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 p.m. Closed for lunch from 12:30 pm to 1:00 pm. Wednesday: 9:00 am to 7:00 p.m. Closed for lunch from 12:00 to 1:00. Closed Friday.

Respectfully submitted by the Board of Assessors
 Cynthia Brown, Chairman
 Lisa Elliot, Member
 Randi Bjorlin, Member
 Adam Hemingway, Regional Tax Assessor
 Kristen Cormier, Assistant Assessor